

PA's Civil Disabilities and Restoration Laws on Convicted Felons

Voting:

Individuals not able to register to vote include those who are currently confined in a penal institution or in a halfway house or other alternative correctional facilities on prerelease status for a felony conviction and who will not be released before the date of the next election. Individuals who have been convicted of violating any provision of the Pennsylvania Election Code within the last four years are also ineligible to register to vote.

Individuals who are able to register and vote include pretrial detainees, convicted misdemeanants, individuals who have been released from a correctional facility or halfway house upon completion of their term of incarceration for conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony, individuals who are on probation or released on parole including parolees who are living in a halfway house and individuals who are under house arrest regardless of their conviction status or the status of their conditions of confinement.

Jury Duty:

Every citizen of voting age is qualified to be a juror, unless unable to read, write, speak, and understand the English language or is incapable, by reason of mental or physical infirmity or has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year and has not been granted a pardon or amnesty there from. (42 Pa C.S.A. § 4502)

Holding Political Office/Running for Office:

Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides that any person convicted of embezzlement of public moneys, bribery, perjury or other infamous crime is ineligible to hold any office of trust or profit in the Commonwealth.

Firearms:

Individuals who are convicted of a felony are prohibited from possessing, using, manufacturing, controlling, selling or transferring firearms. (18 Pa. C.S.A. § 6105)

Housing:

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) operates the Section 8 Voucher Program, also known as the "Housing Choice Voucher Program." PHA has the authority to deny admission to public housing and terminate residents due to drug related and violent criminal activity.

Licenses:

Licenses or permits for gaming employees will be denied for felonies and gambling offenses committed or occurring within 15 years. - 4 Pa. C.S.A. § 1213; 58 Pa. Code § 435a.1(f) and (g). After 15 years of the felony or gambling offense the Gaming Control Board will consider the following factors: The nature and duties of the applicant's position, the nature and seriousness of the offense, the circumstances under which the offense occurred, the age of the applicant with the offense was committed, whether the offense was an isolated or repeated incident, and evidence of rehabilitation (4 Pa. C.S.A. § 1213; 58 Pa. Code § 435a.1(f) and (g))

Registration for nongaming employees may be denied for felonies and gambling offenses within 15 years. (4 Pa. C.S.A. § 1213; 58 Pa. Code § 435a.1 (g)). When evaluating an application for a registration, the Gaming Control Board will consider the following factors: The nature and duties of the applicant's position, the nature and seriousness of the offense, the circumstances under which the offense occurred, the age of the applicant with the offense was committed, whether the offense was an isolated or repeated incident, and evidence of rehabilitation.

Licenses for insurance adjuster's may be revoked due to any kind of felony conviction. (63 P.S. § 1606)

Licenses for mortgage brokers may be denied for conviction of any felony or misdemeanor. (63 P.S. § 456.06(d))

Certification for a license for real estate appraisers may be refused due to any crime substantially related to qualifications, functions, and duties of persons appraising real estate. (63 P.S. § 455.604)

Licenses for real estate brokers may be refused for conviction of any felony or crime of dishonesty. (63 P.S. § 455.604)

Certification of licenses for tax assessors may be refused for any crime substantially related to qualifications, functions, and duties of persons developing real property assessment. (63 P.S. § 458.7)

* Presidential or Governor's pardon are needed in order to regain these rights.

Works Cited

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Voting Rights of Convicted Felons, Convicted Misdemeanants Pretrial Detainees.
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State. Edward G. Rendell, Governor.
Pedro A. Cortes, Secretary of the Commonwealth. www.dos.state.pa.us.