



Working Together. Doing Justice. Restoring Hope.

Clarksville · Columbia · Cookeville · Gallatin · Murfreesboro · Nashville · Oak Ridge · Tullahoma

RESTORATION OF RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP

***“I’ve had my record expunged, but there are still convictions on it.
Can I have my legal rights restored?”***

What is “restoration of rights of citizenship”?

- When convicted of a felony, a person generally loses many civil rights, including but not limited to:
 - o The right to vote;
 - o The right to hold public office;
 - o The right to sit on a jury; and/or
 - o Rights respecting firearms.
- “Restoration of rights of citizenship” means that a judge reviewed your situation and issued a court order restoring at least some of your rights.

How do I get my rights restored?

- **Waiting period:** *Must wait until expiration of maximum felony sentence imposed.*
- You must fill out a *Petition to Restore Rights of Citizenship*.
 - o You can find an example of this form online at:
<https://elect.hamiltontn.gov/Portals/12/FelonRights/Circuit%20Court%20Petition.pdf>.
- A judge will review your Petition
 - o ***A judge reviewing a Petition to Restore Rights of Citizenship relies on exactly the same facts and legal standards as they do for Certificates of Employability.***
 - o This means that *you can apply for both a Certificate of Employability and Restoration of Rights of Citizenship in one single court process* (by filing both Petitions); and
 - o *If the judge grants a Certificate of Employability, they’ll generally restore at least some citizenship rights as well* (and the other way around).
- If your Petition is granted, then the court will issue an *Order Restoring Rights of Citizenship*.
- The order will specify which rights have been restored, and which have not.