

FLORIDA FELONY OFFENSES – CONSEQUENCES OF A CONVICTION OR FINDING OF GUILT

1. When you were arrested, you were fingerprinted and photographed. That information was provided to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and to the FBI.
2. Your arrest record is not private nor confidential.
3. Depending on the charge, the disposition of your case and your prior criminal history, you may or may not be able to seal your criminal record.
4. You will not be able to wipe clean or erase your arrest record with the FBI because the FBI does not seal or expunge arrest records.
5. A “credit time served” or “CTS” sentence does not mean that your case was dismissed or dropped. To the contrary, it means that you pled guilty or the judge found you guilty.
6. Because criminal history records are public, and many landlords obtain the criminal history records of potential renters, you may not be able to rent or lease a house or apartment.
7. Your arrest record does not disappear or go away just because the judge is withholding adjudication.
8. The judge may require you to give a sample of your DNA for a felony conviction or withhold.
9. You may not be able to live with or visit someone who lives in public or Section 8 housing.
10. You may have your license suspended if you are convicted of a drug charge.
11. You may not be able to serve in the military, depending on type and number of adjudications/convictions. You cannot serve in the military or become a law enforcement officer if adjudicated delinquent or found guilty of domestic violence (misdemeanor or felony).
12. If convicted, you will not be able to obtain State of Florida college financial aid (Bright Futures, Gold Seal Vocational & Academic Scholars).
13. You will not be able to obtain federal student financial aid (grant, loan, or work assistance), for a period of time, if you were convicted of possession or sale of a controlled substance while receiving the financial aid.
14. If convicted, you will not be able to petition to seal/expunge your criminal record.
15. If convicted, you will lose your right to vote, hold public office, be a juror, own or possess a firearm or carry a concealed weapon if you are 18 or older at the time of the conviction.
16. You will not be eligible for food stamps if convicted of trafficking drugs.

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17. You could face a mandatory prison sentence or a longer jail sentence on future cases. A prior felony conviction, including adjudications as a juvenile, may subject you to a longer prison term or a mandatory sentence.
18. You may not be able to obtain employment with:
 - the state or municipality if you were convicted of drug trafficking or convicted of any felony or 1st degree misdemeanor “directly related” to the job;
 - a county or municipality (if the job is critical to security or public safety);
 - law enforcement, correctional or other agency that works with children or elderly;
 - the public school system, a seaport or airport.
19. Your felony conviction may be used against you if you testify in court, to undermine your credibility.
20. Your photograph may be posted on the Florida Department of Corrections website, if you are sentenced to probation or state prison.
21. You will have your professional license revoked if convicted of selling drugs.
22. If you have a conviction or withhold for misdemeanor or felony, you may be denied an professional or business license, e.g., in healthcare profession including certified nurse assistant, licensed practical nurse, EMT and paramedics, registered nurse.
23. If you are not a United States citizen and do not have a green card (as permanent resident), a conviction or withhold of adjudication may prevent you from ever getting a green card. You could be deported, even if you have a green card.
24. If you are undocumented, it does not matter whether you plead guilty or not, you could be removed from the U.S.
25. With few exceptions, you will have to register as a sex offender or sexual predator if convicted of a sex offense. You will not be able to live anywhere you want. Your photograph, name and address will be posted in the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) website.
26. If your arrest, conviction or withhold of adjudication is for a sex-related or sexually motivated charge, it can be used against you in the future to keep you locked up for a long time even after you have finished your sentence.

For more information go to www.pdmiami.com/consequencesmanual.pdf

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