



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

Dear Virginian,

Thank you for your interest in the restoration of civil rights. Whether you have committed a crime and are seeking to regain your rights or you are a volunteer helping a felon regain his or her voting rights or another interested party in the process, I want you to be familiar with our goals related to restoration of rights during my administration.

During travels across the Commonwealth, including visits to prisons and jails, I've come into contact with organizations that are doing life-changing work to encourage current and former prisoners to become and stay law-abiding members of society. I've met several children of inmates whose hearts are broken because of time spent apart from their parents. I've met former inmates who are struggling to rebuild their lives and many former inmates who, by hard work and better choices, are law-abiding citizens contributing to their community in meaningful ways. I've, of course, met victims whose lives have been torn apart and forever changed by acts of violence against their loved ones.

As the father of five and a former prosecutor, I believe that the commission of a crime must have a tough and just consequence. Many times, that punishment is what discourages a person from engaging in criminal behavior, and sets them on a path of better choices.

I also believe that once an offender has paid his debt to society, he deserves a second chance. It's good government to restore ex-offenders to society and to encourage them to become law-abiding members of society again.

The new restoration of rights procedures we have put in place will result in the fastest decision-making process in modern Virginia history, with a 60-day turnaround time on decisions once the application is complete. Previously, many of these decisions took 6-12 months or longer.

Please review the form and the attached information page for more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Secretary of the Commonwealth's office at (804) 786.2441. They will ensure that someone will respond to your inquiry in a timely manner. If there is any additional information you would like to provide to me when considering your application, please feel free to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. McDonnell".

Robert F. McDonnell