

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BEING A CONVICTED FELON

You Cannot Possess a Firearm or Weapon: As a convicted felon, you are not allowed to possess any firearm. In addition, you are not allowed to possess a bowie knife, a dirk knife, a butcher knife, a switchblade knife, metallic or brass knuckles (including the belt buckle variety), blackjack or any muffler or silencer for any firearm. If you are found to be in possession of any of these weapons, you can be sentenced from 1 year to 10 years in the MDOC and a fine up to \$5,000. *See, Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-5.*

Voting: If you are convicted of any of the felony crimes listed below, you are disqualified from voting for life:

Murder;

- Rape;
- Bribery;
- Armed robbery;
- Theft;
- Felony Shoplifting;
- Arson;
- False Pretense;
- Perjury;
- Forgery;
- Embezzlement;
- Bigamy.

If you are convicted of a felony crime other than one listed above, you still have the right to vote, even while you are incarcerated. *See, Miss. Constitution Ann. Article 12, § 241.*

Jury Duty: Juries are called for service by using the Voter Registration List. Thus, if you are not a registered voter, or have been convicted of one of the crimes above which prevents you from voting, you are thus not eligible to serve on a Jury.

SNAP & TANF Benefits: If you have been convicted of Aggravated Assault, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation and Other forms of Child Abuse; and/or Murder, you are not eligible to receive SNAP Benefits. However, as of July 1, 2019, felons convicted of drug related crimes are eligible to receive these benefits.

Expungement: If you were convicted of a felony and have paid all your fines and court costs, you can petition the Court to have your record expunged after 5 year have elapsed from your conviction date. You are only entitled to have 1 felony conviction expunged and you must have successfully completed all terms of your sentence. However, you are not eligible to have the conviction expunged if it is one of the following felony crimes (*See, Miss. Code Ann. §99-19-71*):

- Crimes of Violence (Murder/Attempted Murder; Aggravated Assault; Manslaughter; Killing of an Unborn Child; Kidnapping; Human Trafficking; Poisoning; Rape/Statutory Rape; Robbery; Sexual Battery; Drive-By Shooting; Carjacking; Felony Neglect, Abuse or Battery of Child; Burglary of a Dwelling; Exploitation of a Child; Shooting into a Dwelling);
- Arson;
- Trafficking a Controlled Substance;
- A 3rd or 4th Offense DUI;
- Felon in Possession of Firearm/Weapon;
- Failure to Register as a Sex Offender;
- Voyeurism;
- Witness Intimidation;
- Abuse, neglect or exploitation of a venerable person;
- Embezzlement.