



A GUIDE TO RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS IN DAVIDSON COUNTY TENNESSEE

Written By Gicola Lane for Restore Your Vote

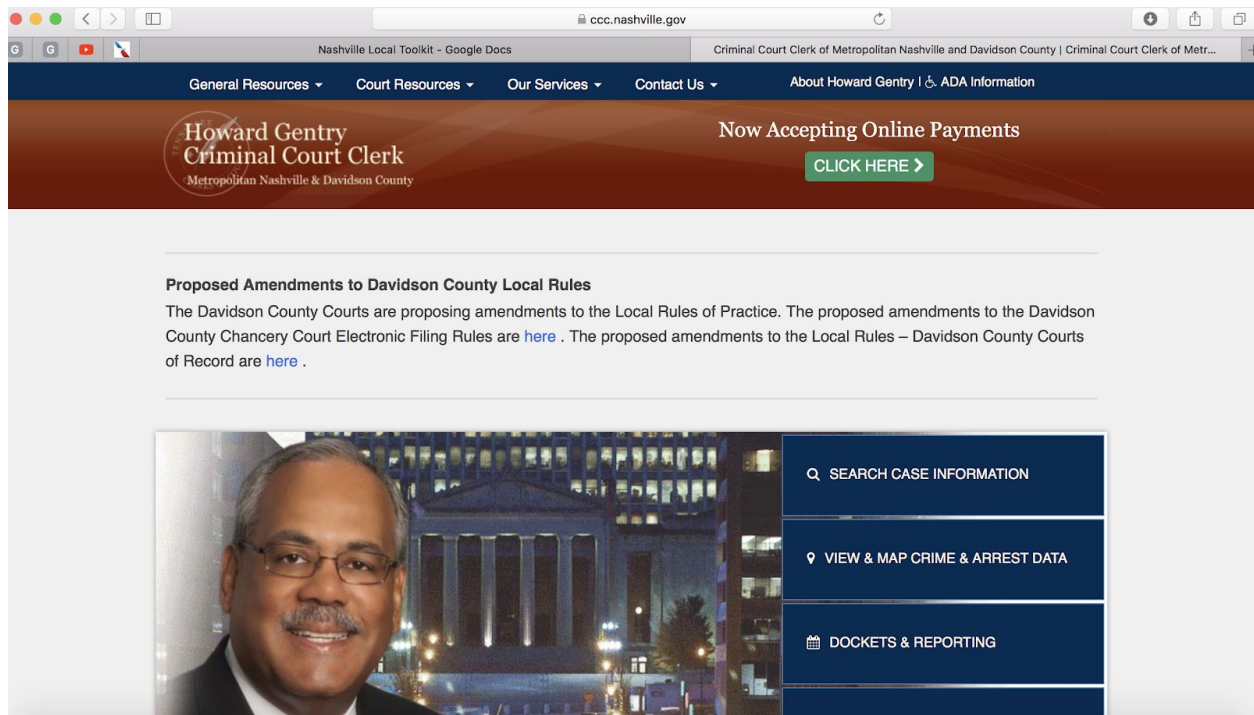
Please note that this handbook is a local supplement to the Restore Your Vote Tennessee Rights Restoration Manual. For general information on voting rights restoration in Tennessee, please see the manual. We have also created local supplemental handbooks for Shelby County and Knox County. Visit <https://campaignlegal.org/cases-actions/felony-voting-rights-restoration-tennessee> to find all of our Tennessee materials.

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Research and Document Collection

Online records in Davidson County are accessible via the Criminal Court Clerk's Office at ccc.nashville.gov.

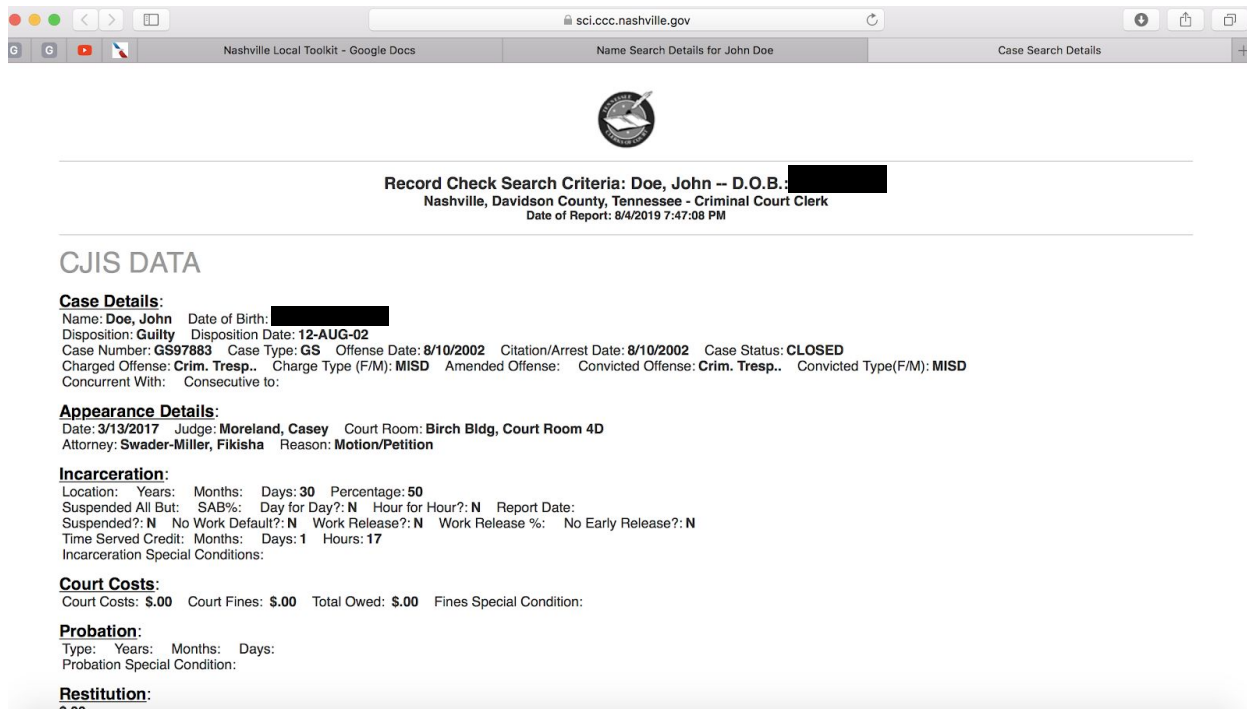


Once you are on the Criminal Court Clerk's website, you will click the 'search case information' button to the right side of your screen. This will bring up the search bar where you enter the person's name of who you are researching.

Once you enter the person’s name, be sure that the other information such as date of birth matches. Sometimes information could be entered incorrectly, but it is rare. Below is an example of ‘John Doe.’ You will want to double check the spelling of the name, and look for the correct date of birth listed.

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	OCA Number	
John	Doe			Defendant Details ➤
John	Doe			Defendant Details ➤
John	Doe			Defendant Details ➤
John	Doe			Defendant Details ➤
John	Doe			Defendant Details ➤
John	Doe			Defendant Details ➤
John	Doe			Defendant Details ➤

Next, you will click on the person's name to pull display the available cases. To view and save this information, click on the blue button above all the available cases that says, 'View Detailed Criminal History.' This will detail all the information pertinent to voter rights restoration: the actual conviction date, the type of conviction, the court costs, fines, and restitution.



Record Check Search Criteria: Doe, John -- D.O.B.: [REDACTED]
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee - Criminal Court Clerk
Date of Report: 8/4/2019 7:47:08 PM

CJIS DATA

Case Details:
Name: Doe, John Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Disposition: Guilty Disposition Date: 12-AUG-02
Case Number: GS97883 Case Type: GS Offense Date: 8/10/2002 Citation/Arrest Date: 8/10/2002 Case Status: CLOSED
Charged Offense: Crim. Tresp.. Charge Type (F/M): MISD Amended Offense: Convicted Offense: Crim. Tresp.. Convicted Type(F/M): MISD
Concurrent With: Consecutive to:

Appearance Details:
Date: 3/13/2017 Judge: Moreland, Casey Court Room: Birch Bldg, Court Room 4D
Attorney: Swader-Miller, Fikisha Reason: Motion/Petition

Incarceration:
Location: Years: Months: Days: 30 Percentage: 50
Suspended All But: SAB%: Day for Day?: N Hour for Hour?: N Report Date:
Suspended?: N No Work Default?: N Work Release?: N Work Release %: No Early Release?: N
Time Served Credit: Months: Days: 1 Hours: 17
Incarceration Special Conditions:

Court Costs:
Court Costs: \$0.00 Court Fines: \$0.00 Total Owed: \$0.00 Fines Special Condition:

Probation:
Type: Years: Months: Days:
Probation Special Condition:

Restitution:
[REDACTED]

You can save all pages of the detailed criminal history by saving this as a pdf, when you press print. Then you can upload it to your electronic folder in your database.

NOTE: If a case is twenty years old or more, the case details may not always be available online. If this occurs, the file should be ordered by a clerk's office employee via email, phone, or in person request. It typically takes one day for the archived file to be retrieved.

The clerk to contact for copies of archived records is: Cedric Belcher - 615.862.5601
Ext – 71396 - CedricTBelcher@jjs.nashville.org

All Cedric needs in order to pull records is their name and date of birth (DOB). I would also also send as much information as you have about the convictions such as type and approximate date.

Sometimes the clerk's office is slow, and sometimes it is super busy. Cedric is usually pretty quick to respond, but if he happens to take a while to respond, it is best to just pick up the phone and check in with him about your request.

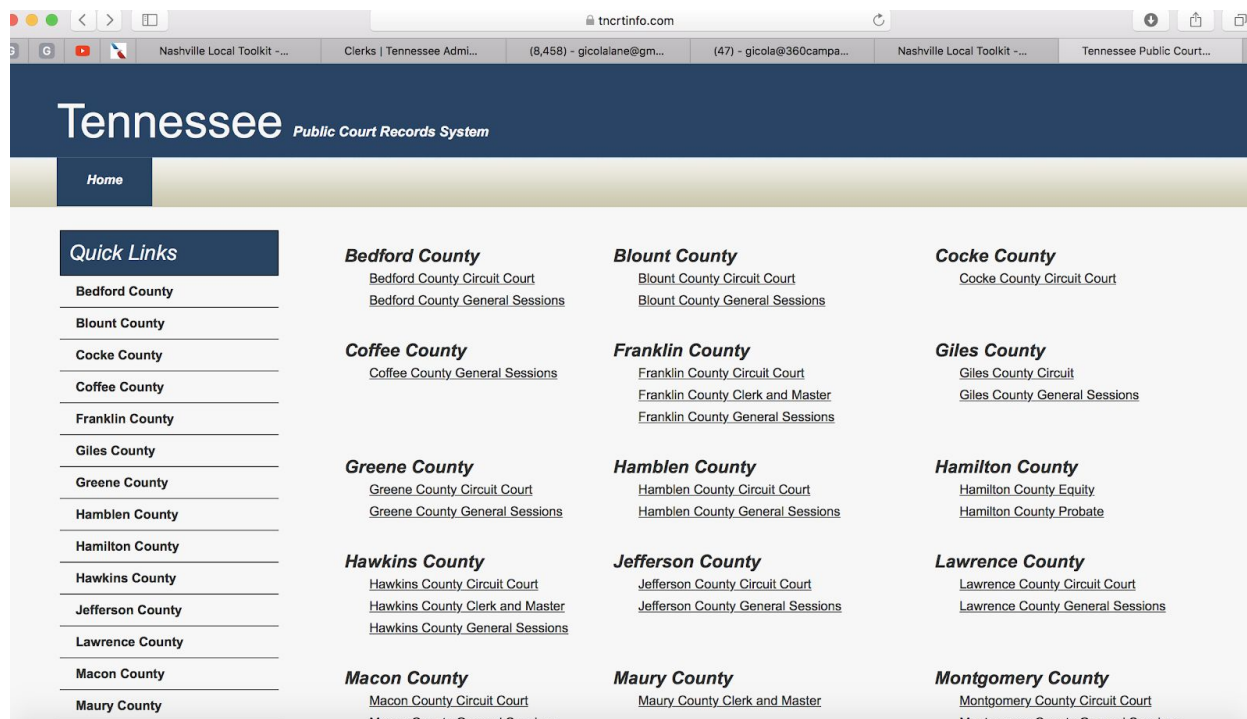
If Cedric is not available you can call the general phone number for the clerk's office, and let them know you need an archived file. They will connect you with another clerk employee who can assist. The clerk's general phone number is 615.862.5601.

You do not need physical copies of the records in order to get a COR form filled out, but it is helpful because you may have to help guide the authorized agent through the completion of the COR. They do not seem to have a lot of experience completing them.

If you need to get records for someone outside of Davidson County, I always take a two step approach:

1. Figure out if they have court records available online. <https://tncrtinfo.com> is a tool I use

for counties who typically do not have their own websites available for record research. For example, say records for someone in Sumner County is needed, I would look at the list of counties on the Tennessee Public Court Records System, and click on Sumner County. This county allows you to search their records, so you would click on circuit court, then the criminal tab to search for a person's cases. If you run into any issues, you can always click on the contact tab for the clerk's contact information.



sumner.tncrtinfo.com

Nashville Local Toolkit ~... Clerks | Tennessee Admi... (8,458) - gicolalane@gm... (47) - gicola@360campa... Nashville Local Toolkit ~... Sumner County - Online...

Sumner County

Online Court Records System

Circuit Court

Home Criminal Civil Contact

Subscription Login

Home

[Criminal](#)
[Civil](#)

Welcome to the Sumner County Online Court Records System.

Please select a case type to search from the menu on the left.

Additionally, you can use the dropdown at the top of the page to select which court you want to search.

Disclaimer: All information compiled on this website is provided as a public service and for general informational purposes only. The information available through this website is not the official court record information of the Clerk. It should not be relied upon for any type of legal action, nor considered to be legal advice. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for the accuracy of the data herein. Its use or its interpretation. All data contained herein is subject to change without notice. The Clerk shall not be liable for any demand or claim, regardless of form or action, arising out of or incident to the posting of information or data on this website, the accessing or use of any information or data on this website, and/or the acts or omissions of any person or entity accessing or using any information from this website.

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Sumner County

Online Court Records System


Circuit Court

Home Criminal Civil Contact

Subscription Login

Criminal

[Search by Party Name](#)
[Search by Case Number](#)

First Name:  Find Now

Last Name:

or

Business Name:

Enter selection criteria above and click 'Find Now'

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2. Contact the clerk's office! Every clerk's office has a phone number you can call, where you can actually have a discussion with the court clerk about what information you need.

Local county clerk's office main lines:

- Davidson: 615.862.5601, Staff Directory: <https://ccc.nashville.gov/general-resources/staff-directory/>
- Rutherford: 615.898-7812, circuit_criminal_clerk@rutherfordcountyttn.gov
- Sumner: 615.452.4367, ext. 4, <https://www.sumnercourts.com>
- Wilson: 615.444.1488, <https://wilsoncountycourts.com>
- Montgomery: 931.648.5700, cccmont@mcgtn.net

[You can find general contact information for any county clerk in the state here.](#)

Getting Certificates of Restoration Filled Out

The person who fills out COR forms for me is: Marty Dreher - Marty Dreher, parole/probation manager for the Tennessee Department of Corrections, 615.253.5088, Marty.Dreher@tn.gov

[You can find and print blank COR forms online.](#)

Marty prefers to be contacted via email, but that is not always the fastest way to get things done. He originally asked me to email him the person's information, and then he would mail the COR back to me. The best way to reach him is to call him, and ask if you can swing by because he is slow to respond back sometimes. You can find him in his office on usually, but there is a front desk check point. I recommend calling before going to the office.

Marty's office is at the state probation and parole office at 220 Blanton Avenue. You may park anywhere in the parking lot, but i try to leave front spaces to parole officer vehicles, as they come in and out throughout the day. You'll need to go to the front door and check in, and receive a visitor's badge before being allowed back to visit with Marty,

Nobody else has been appointed to filling out COR forms at the moment. Charlotte Mann use to be the designated oersin, but she is not very open or able to help because of capacity issues. Marty allowed me to speak with his division, and they ae open to doing them, but may need some guidance, and constant follow up with. Even though every probation officer is supposed to do it, Marty has admitted that they do not, and has encouraged his staff to do so.

Here is what he needs to fill out the COR form:

- First name
- Last name
- Date of birth
- Proof that they owe no court costs or restitution (again, just an email from the clerk is fine)

I also like to bring in their date of conviction, what the conviction was for, and their TOMIS and social security number. If you can get all of that, that's great. But if not he is able to look it up.

The person receiving the COR does not have to be present. Marty will just need to be provided all the information to complete the COR. Hde may ask you to, and then have him sign it.

lif you have their name, date of birth, and proof that they owe no court costs or restitution then you will be good to go on getting a COR form filled out.

Once filled out, Marty will give you the Certificate of Restoration and have you take it over to the Davidson County Election Commission - satellite office - at .800 2nd Avenue South, 4th floor.

What to do with Pre-1981 Convictions

The grace period is the time frame during which people did not lose their right to vote due to a felony conviction. This was from January 15, 1973 to May 17, 1981. It also includes most convictions from before January 15th of 1973.

If a person was convicted before January 15, 1973 they likely did not lose their right to vote. Check the [RYV Manual](#) and refer to the list of ineligible convictions to be sure. If a person was convicted between January 15, 1973 and May 17, 1981 then they never lost their right to vote. Period. This is great! You can go right on ahead and register them.

Here are two ways you can do that:

1. Get copies of their criminal record to prove their conviction happened during that time period, and then have them fill out the [standard Tennessee voter registration form](#).
2. If you can't get copies of their record but they are absolutely positive their conviction happened during this time frame (remember, it's important to note that this is the **date of conviction**, NOT the date of arrest) then have them fill out the [federal voter registration form](#).

Registering People to Vote:

Bring COR forms and voter registrations to: Carlatina Hampton, Davidson County Election Commission, 615-880-2560.- Carlatina.Hampton@nashville.gov

The local election commission satellite office - at .800 2nd Avenue South, 4th floor. There is an open free public parking lot in front of the satellite office building.

When you bring the COR to the election commission, they fax it over to the state election commission. They will double check that everything is okay. Once they see that it is, they send it back to the local office and Carlatina Hampton will give you a call to let you know their CORs have been approved. This process can be as fast as a few days or as slow as a couple of weeks, so if you're doing rights restoration close to a voter registration deadline try to give them at least a week to get back to you.

NOTE: You *can* drop off the COR forms before you have a filled out voter registration form in hand, but try not to. Do your best to have the VR form with you along with the COR, or if you can't then let Carlatina know you'll be getting it to him soon.

Sometimes, a Certificate of Restoration or a voter registration form is rejected. If that happens, the state board of elections may call the person whose rights you were trying to get restored.

If the form is correctly rejected - let's say, they owe child support - then you need to meet back up with the person to make a plan. Can you go to DHS together and try to get their plan revised? Are they interested in petitioning the court for their rights?

If the form is incorrectly rejected, start first by talking to state about why. He's a pretty liberal dude who wants to help people get their rights back. From there, I would recommend contacting someone in our legal coalition - either Keeda Haynes or Daniel Horwitz.

What to Do With Legal Financial Obligations

If someone owes court costs or restitution, the best thing to do is to try to get them waived by the judge through an indigence hearing. This can be done by going to the Criminal Court Clerk's office located at:

408 2nd Avenue, North
Suite 2120 Nashville, TN 37201

[Click here for map & parking information...](#)

Phone: 615.862.5601

They can petition the court without an attorney. To do that, folks need to fill out the affidavit of indigency and motions with their respective code.

There are also expungement clinics through the Music City Community Court where folks can go for free legal advice about getting their records expunged.. These clinics are every quarter on Saturday from 9 am-4 pm. Participants will have to sign up in advance because it is so well attended. in the Fourth Session Courtroom in the City-County Building. This is hosted Judge Bell from General Sessions Court.

What to Do With Unpaid Child Support

If someone needs to have their monthly payments lowered, they can contact their local DHS office and request an [Affidavit of Income and Expenses](#). The child support office sends this to both parents and, after receiving it, reviews what monthly payments are reasonable. This doesn't help someone become COR eligible if they are still paying arrears, but it does help remove financial strain.

To have a change made to their arrears that would make someone eligible for a COR, they would need to go back to court and stand before a judge. This doesn't mean that rights

restoration isn't possible, but it does mean that their only path is to petition the court for their rights back.

Child support is one of the more challenging barriers to overcome. But, getting folks on regular payments that they can actually afford helps make a stronger case to the judge that they should have their rights restored.

The local DHS office is 1000 2nd Ave N, Nashville, TN 37243 and the phone number is (615) 532-4000.

Community Resources

We have a handful of strong community partners, and you can see the list of them and their contact information here. The folks to work with the most are:

Our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RestoreYourVoteNash/>

Community Partners (main groups you are working with):

NAACP

Free Hearts

The Equity Alliance

Nashville Community Bail Fund

Choosing Justice Initiative

Nashville Defenders

The Brother's Round Table

Vanderbilt Law School

Dad's Against Destruction

Community Oversight Now

Democracy Nashville

No Exceptions Prison Collective

Gideon's Army

Southerners On New Ground