

CHARGED WITH A CRIME? KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FACING

PLEADINGS and CONVICTIONS

When you plead no contest or guilty, or you're found guilty by a judge or jury, the judge can enter on your record either a conviction or a withhold of adjudication.

Either can trigger major consequences, in addition to your sentence, even when the sentence is credit for time served.

Consequences of a withhold of adjudication are often identical to those of a conviction with regard to:

- Federal and state sentencing guidelines
- Registration as a sex offender or predator
- Immigration proceedings

In juvenile cases, a conviction is called an adjudication of delinquency. In such cases, misdemeanor records are confidential, but felony records are not and do not automatically disappear when you turn 18.



Legal. This information is not intended as legal advice. For detailed information on how a conviction or withhold will affect you, speak to an attorney. This card is produced by the ACLU of Florida, Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office, and Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association. Visit aclufl.org/CollateralConsequences

CONSEQUENCES of CONVICTIONS and WITHHOLDS

Whether you're facing a felony or misdemeanor conviction or withhold, or a juvenile adjudication or withhold, here are ways your life can be affected:

Housing. You may be unable to get or keep subsidized housing and may be rejected by landlords or lenders.

Assistance. You may be disqualified from or denied state or federal financial assistance.

Driving. You may lose driving privileges.

Immigration. You may be detained by ICE, unable to adjust status, or deported.

Employment. You may be disqualified from future jobs, especially in airports, seaports, schools or public safety, and from enlisting in the military.

Credentials. You may be disqualified from professional certifications and licenses in cosmetology, private security and other fields, and from association memberships.

Business. You may be unable to get or keep business loans.

School. You may be disqualified from or denied access to higher education, financial aid or student housing.

CONSEQUENCES of CONVICTIONS

Felonies. You lose your rights to be a juror, to bear arms, to hold public office, and to vote, unless and until your voting rights are restored.

Misdemeanors. You lose the right to bear arms for a misdemeanor conviction for domestic violence.

Juvenile cases. With an adjudication of delinquency, there is no loss of civil rights.