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Governor Crist Orders Greater Public Access to Civil Rights Restoration Information

Tallahassee – Governor Charlie Crist today issued an Executive Order requiring the Office of Executive Clemency and the Florida Parole Commission to provide more information and greater public access to civil rights restoration information. The Florida Parole Commission has redesigned their website to allow an individual the ability to look up and print a copy of their restoration certificate.

The Executive Order also requires a voter registration application to be included in every Restoration of Civil Rights Certificate mailed from the Parole Commission.

“I believe that government should explore every opportunity to ease the notification process and provide as much information about restoration of civil rights,” said Governor Crist. “The changes made today will allow ex-offenders to immediately register to vote and participate in the democratic process.”

Individuals convicted of a felony under Florida law must regain their civil rights prior to being able to register to vote. As a result of actions taken by the Governor and Clemency Board since April 2007, more than 120,000 Floridians have had their rights restored.

The new website enhancements include:

- Immediate access to information 24 hours a day/7 days a week;
- Access to the most current Civil Rights Restoration information available as it is updated daily;
- Printing certificates directly from the Commission's database in certain cases;
- A direct link to the Division of Elections' voter registration website; and
- Links to additional information and contact numbers on the clemency process.

The Parole Commission's website may be accessed on-line at:

www.FLrestoremyrights.com.

