

VETERANS' PREFERENCE CERTIFICATION

Date: _____ Name: _____

Section 295.07(1), Florida Statutes, provides for Veterans' Preference in employment appointment and retention, if qualified under one of the following categories and not exempt under Section 295.07(4), Florida Statutes. Section 295.09, Florida Statutes, also provides Veterans' Preference for reinstatement, reemployment, and promotion. If you seek Veterans' Preference, please "check" the appropriate box, and provide this form and documentation of your status along with your employment application, no later than the position advertisement closing date.

I certify that I am qualified to claim Veterans' Preference under the category checked below:

(a) A disabled veteran:

1. Who has served on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, has received an honorable discharge, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability that is compensable under public laws administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or
2. Who is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension by reason of public laws administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Defense.

(b) The spouse of a person who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability and who, because of this disability, cannot qualify for employment, and the spouse of a person missing in action, captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

(c) A wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), who has served at least 1 day during a wartime period. I acknowledge that active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

(d) The unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability.

(e) The mother, father, legal guardian, or unremarried widow or widower of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions, as verified by the United States Department of Defense.

(f) A veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), F.S. I acknowledge that active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

(g) A current member of any reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard. If so, please attach FDVA form VP2, signed by your immediate military supervisor, to document your status.

Please submit this certification with your application, or as soon as possible, prior to the date that the position advertisement closes. **In order to receive Veterans' Preference and to complete your application, this form and documentation to prove your status must be returned to the Human Resources ("HR") office in accordance with Rule 55A-7.013, Florida Administrative Code.** Please fax this form and along with your supporting documentation to (863)674-4195 or send by email to audelia.bustamante@hendryfla.net. Contact HR at (863)675-5352, if you have any questions.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

By _____

Printed Name _____

Persons seeking Veterans' Preference must submit the following documents, as applicable to their situation:

- (a) Veterans, disabled veterans, and spouses of disabled veterans shall furnish a Department of Defense document, commonly known as form DD-214 or military discharge papers, or equivalent certification from the DVA, listing military status, dates of service and discharge type.
- (b) Disabled veterans shall also furnish a document from the Department of Defense, the DVA, or the Department certifying that the veteran has a service-connected disability.
- (c) Spouses of disabled veterans shall also furnish either a certification from the Department of Defense or the DVA that the veteran is totally and permanently disabled or an identification card issued by the Department; spouses shall also furnish evidence of marriage to the veteran and a statement that the spouse is still married to the veteran at the time of the application for employment; the spouse shall also submit proof that the disabled veteran cannot qualify for employment because of the service-connected disability.
- (d) Spouses of persons on active duty shall furnish a document from the Department of Defense or the DVA certifying that the person on active duty is listed as missing in action, captured in line of duty, or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power; such spouses shall also furnish evidence of marriage and a statement that the spouse is married to the person on active duty at the time of that application for employment.
- (e) The mother, father, legal guardian, or unremarried widow or widower of a deceased Veteran shall furnish a document from the Department of Defense showing the death of the service member while on duty status under combat-related conditions or the DVA certifying the service-connected death of the Veteran. The mother, father, or legal guardian shall provide evidence of familial relationship, such as a birth certificate. The unremarried widow or widower of a deceased Veteran shall furnish a document from the Department of Defense or the DVA certifying the service-connected death of the Veteran, and shall provide evidence of marriage, such as a marriage certificate. This evidence may be proved by providing a completed Certification of Unremarried Widow or Widower, FDVA form VP-3, incorporated by reference and found at <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-06985> or document or form that similarly provides evidence regarding such the status. This documentation is intended to facilitate granting rather than denying a benefit.
- (f) The current service member of any active component of the United States Armed Forces who is expected to be discharged or released from active duty service under honorable conditions no later than 120 days after the date that a Statement of Service certification or letter is prepared by the armed forces, shall be treated as a Preference-Eligible applicant. These documents may be provided in lieu of a DD-214 or other documentation which may not be available until active service has ended.
- (g) The current member of any reserve component of the United States Armed Forces may provide a signed memorandum stating he or she is serving honorably from his or her Commander or military human resource personnel, or a completed Certification of Current Member of Reserve Component of the United States Armed Forces or The Florida National Guard, FDVA form VP-2, incorporated by reference and found at <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-06984>, signed by an immediate military supervisor. Full-Time duties and operational support assignments in the Reserve Component and the Florida National Guard, for all purposes other than receiving training, are Preference-Eligible for recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotional preferences.

All persons seeking Veterans' Preference shall attempt to contact Human Resources or other designated contact at least one time after 45 days have passed, but not longer than 90 days from the final date for submitting an application or the interview date, whichever is later in time, and shall document such attempt, if the applicant has not received notice of a hiring decision from the employer. If the employer does respond to the attempted contact, the applicant has 60 days from that attempt date to file a complaint with FDVA.

Preference-eligible applicants have the right to request an investigation by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs if a non-preference eligible applicant is appointed to a position. A written complaint must be filed within sixty-five (65) days from the date of the notice of the County's hiring decision with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Veterans' Preference Coordinator, 11351 Ulmerton Road, Suite 311, Largo, FL 33778.