STATE LAW

The rights felons lose are primarily governed by state law. There are also several rights lost upon conviction pursuant to federal law (i.e. the right to sit on a federal grand jury). At one time, many states had disabling laws known as civil death statutes. The typical death statute provided:

“A person sentenced to imprisonment in the state prison for life is thereafter deemed civilly dead and a sentence of imprisonment in a state prison for anytime less than for life suspends all the civil rights of the person so sentenced, and forfeits all public offices and all private trusts, authority and power during such imprisonment.”
### Right to Vote

A person convicted of a felony is precluded from voting or holding any office under the United States. 18 U.S.C. § 1916(a). A person who is convicted of treason is incapable of holding any office under the United States. 18 U.S.C. § 1863. A person convicted of a law of this state, or of another state, or of the United States that violates such laws, is punishable by imprisonment for 4 years or more, or an attempt to violate such laws, M.C.L. § 750.224f(5).

Federal prisoners may bring civil suits alleging violations of constitutional and civil rights. In order to regain some of these rights, a presidential pardon or some other affirmative act is required. This prohibition is removed upon release from sentence and restoration of all of the person's civil rights. This right is automatically restored upon release.

### Right to File a Civil Rights Complaint

A person who is convicted of a felony is ineligible to accept and hold an appointment to fill a position in a non-Federal government office which which the term of the office is for more than three years, during the term of his/her sentence. M.C.L. § 600.1307a(1)(e).

After completion of all terms of sentence one can attempt to get privilege restored pursuant to M.C.L. § 750.224f. The word felony for purposes of M.C.L. 750.224f means a violation of a law of the State of Michigan or of the United States which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

### Right to Employment

A person convicted of a felony is ineligible to accept and hold an appointment to fill a position in a non-Federal government office which which the term of the office is for more than three years, during the term of his/her sentence. M.C.L. § 600.1307a(1)(e).

After completion of all terms of sentence one can attempt to get privilege restored pursuant to M.C.L. § 750.224f. The word felony for purposes of M.C.L. 750.224f means a violation of a law of the State of Michigan or of the United States which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

### Freedom of Information Act

A person convicted of a felony is ineligible to accept and hold an appointment to fill a position in a non-Federal government office which which the term of the office is for more than three years, during the term of his/her sentence. M.C.L. § 600.1307a(1)(e).

After completion of all terms of sentence one can attempt to get privilege restored pursuant to M.C.L. § 750.224f. The word felony for purposes of M.C.L. 750.224f means a violation of a law of the State of Michigan or of the United States which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

### Firearms Privileges

A person convicted of a felony is ineligible to accept and hold an appointment to fill a position in a non-Federal government office which which the term of the office is for more than three years, during the term of his/her sentence. M.C.L. § 600.1307a(1)(e).

After completion of all terms of sentence one can attempt to get privilege restored pursuant to M.C.L. § 750.224f. The word felony for purposes of M.C.L. 750.224f means a violation of a law of the State of Michigan or of the United States which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

### Right to Serve on a Jury

A person convicted of a felony is ineligible to accept and hold an appointment to fill a position in a non-Federal government office which which the term of the office is for more than three years, during the term of his/her sentence. M.C.L. § 600.1307a(1)(e).

After completion of all terms of sentence one can attempt to get privilege restored pursuant to M.C.L. § 750.224f. The word felony for purposes of M.C.L. 750.224f means a violation of a law of the State of Michigan or of the United States which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

### Good Time

A person convicted of a felony is ineligible to accept and hold an appointment to fill a position in a non-Federal government office which which the term of the office is for more than three years, during the term of his/her sentence. M.C.L. § 600.1307a(1)(e).

After completion of all terms of sentence one can attempt to get privilege restored pursuant to M.C.L. § 750.224f. The word felony for purposes of M.C.L. 750.224f means a violation of a law of the State of Michigan or of the United States which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

### Right to Serve on a Grand Jury

A person convicted of a felony is ineligible to accept and hold an appointment to fill a position in a non-Federal government office which which the term of the office is for more than three years, during the term of his/her sentence. M.C.L. § 600.1307a(1)(e).

After completion of all terms of sentence one can attempt to get privilege restored pursuant to M.C.L. § 750.224f. The word felony for purposes of M.C.L. 750.224f means a violation of a law of the State of Michigan or of the United States which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.