

Welcome to Florida!

Changing Residency

We are so happy to have you here in the Sunshine State! Now, let's make sure that your previous state of residence knows that you plan on staying.

- 1. Get a Florida Driver's License
- 2. Register to vote! (Which is usually done when you get your driver's license.)
- 3. Register your vehicle(s) in Florida.
- 4. Do you own your home? Make sure that you have applied for and followed through with the Florida Homestead on your home. This provides a tax savings on your property taxes. Florida also has tremendous protections for residents' homestead property. Registering for the Homestead further establishes that you intend to be a permanent Florida resident.
- 5. If you will not be purchasing a home right away then filing a Declaration of Domicile with the local Clerk of the Court will help establish your intentions in the public record.
- 6. Create a Florida Estate Plan. If you have an estate plan from your previous state of residency update it to Florida. This further shows your home state that you intend to stay in Florida.
- 7. Move your banking to Florida! This is important, if all of your banking is still in, for example, New York, well, New York is going to figure that you intend to come back and surely you must want to pay New York taxes! Further establish your residency by moving most or all of your accounts to local branches. I know this is cumbersome but so are some of those Northern taxes...
- 8. When you file your taxes make sure to list your Florida residence as your home address. If you have been filing taxes for many years out of another state it can be easy to accidentally file with an old address if you still own that residence. Update!