

Frequently Asked Questions for Peer Recovery Specialist:

1. If I am eligible for employment as a Peer Recovery Specialist and am offered another position, do I have to be screened again?

Yes. Eligibility for a Peer Recovery Specialist is different than any other position in substance use disorder and mental health facilities. Florida Statutes specifically outline background screening requirements for individuals wanting to work or be certified as a Peer Recovery Specialist.

2. How long after my disqualifying offense do I have to wait to apply for the exemption if I am disqualified as a peer?

Three years must have elapsed after completion of all non-monetary sanctions the court has ordered. For example, probation or community service. Also, you can't have been arrested for ANY felony offense in the past 3 years, even a non-disqualifying offense.

3. Do I have to be certified?

Yes. If you are providing peer support services, you must be certified. However, you can provide services for up to 1 year while seeking certification and be supervised by a qualified professional.

4. What limitations do I have as a Peer?

Peers provide support services to individuals that have entered treatment. Supporting those beginning recovery with shared life experiences facilitates recovery. You are not able to provide therapy. You must have been in recovery for the past 2 years.

5. How do I get certified as a Peer Recovery Specialist?

The Florida Certification Board offers two credentials for Peers. One is a Certified Recovery Peer Specialist (CRPS) and a Certified Recovery Support Specialist. Their website outlines the requirements. <https://flcertificationboard.org/>

6. If I was certified prior to July 1, 2022, do I have to go through the background screening now?

No. Anyone certified prior to July 1, 2022, is assumed to meet the qualification. However, you must meet the standards to maintain your certification including the background screening requirements.