

VETERANS' PREFERENCE CERTIFICATION

Date: _____ Applicant's Printed 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.

In order to receive Veterans' Preference, please submit this certification and required documentation with your application, or as soon as possible, prior to the date that the position advertisement closes in accordance with Rule 55A-7.013, Florida Administrative Code. Any questions, contact Lisa Beans, HR Specialist, lbeans@slwsd.org or call (772)340-0220 Ext.105

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

Applicant Signature: _____

DEFINITION OF “VETERAN” FOR VETERANS’ PREFERENCE ELIGIBILITY

The term Veteran means a person who served in the United States of America active military, naval, or air service and who was released with an Honorable discharge.

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(5), Florida Statutes. Candidates seeking Veterans’ Preference must have received an honorable discharge or must present documentation stating current service is honorable.

ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES FOR CLAIMING VETERANS’ PREFERENCE

(a) Those disabled veterans:

1. Who have served on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, have received an honorable discharge, and have 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 receive compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension pursuant to public laws administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Defense.

(b) The spouse of a Veteran:

1. Who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability and who, because of this disability, cannot qualify for employment; or
2. Who is 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 Section 1.01(14), F.S., who has served at least one day during a wartime period; or who has been awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal. Active duty for training shall not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

Wartime Periods:

Spanish-American War: April 21, 1898, to July 4, 1902, and including the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion.

Mexican Border Period: May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, in the case of a veteran who during such period served in Mexico, on the borders of, or in the waters adjacent to Mexico.

World War I: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; extended to April 1, 1920, for those veterans who served in Russia; also extended through July 1, 1921, for those veterans who served after November 11, 1918, and before July 2, 1921, provided such veterans had at least 1 day of service between April 5, 1917, and November 12, 1918.

World War II: December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946.

Korean War: June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955.

Vietnam War: February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975.

Persian Gulf War: August 2, 1990, to January 2, 1992.

Operation Enduring Freedom: October 7, 2001, and ending on the date thereafter prescribed by presidential proclamation or by law.

Service during a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge or expeditionary medal has been authorized.

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

(e) The mother, father, legal guardian, or un-remarried 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 Section 1.01(14), F.S. The term “Veteran” is defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions only or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions. Active duty for training does not qualify as a veteran for Veterans Preference eligibility under this section.

(g) A current member of any reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR CLAIMING VETERANS’ PREFERENCE

Candidates seeking Veterans’ Preference must provide the required documentation from the list below depending on the category under which preference is being claimed. Please include certification and preference required documents to your application.

Category	Required Documentation
(a)	Department of Defense (DOD) document, commonly known as form DD Form 214 or military discharge papers, or equivalent certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), listing military status, dates of service and Character of Discharge; and a Document from the DOD or the DVA, establishing that the Veteran has a service-connected disability.
(b1)	DD Form 214 or military discharge papers, or equivalent certification from the DVA, listing military status, dates of service and Character of Discharge; and Proof that the disabled Veteran cannot qualify for employment because of service-connected disability such as an Award Letter stating that spouse is entitled to benefits under Chapter 35 from the VA or the DOD; and An identification card issued by the DOD; and a Marriage certificate or other official 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.
(b2)	DOD or DVA document certifying that the Veteran 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; and a Marriage

	Certificate or other official 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.
(c)	DD Form 214 or military discharge papers, or equivalent certification from the DVA, listing military status, dates of service, Character of Discharge. The document must indicate a qualifying “wartime period” as defined in section 1.01(14), F.S. or proof that the Veteran has been awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal. Active duty for training shall not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.
(d)	DOD or DVA document certifying the Veteran died of a service-connected disability and indicating the cause of death; and a Marriage certificate or other official evidence of marriage to the Veteran; and a Statement that the spouse has not remarried since the date of the service-connected death.
(e)	DOD document certifying the death of the Service Member while on duty status under combat-related conditions or the DVA document certifying the service-connected death of the Veteran; and Evidence of familial relationship: Mother, Father, Legal Guardian: Birth certificate or proper court documents establishing the legal authority for the Guardian. Spouse: Marriage Certificate or other official evidence of marriage to the Veteran, and a statement that the spouse has not remarried since the date of the service-connected death.
(f)	DD Form 214 or military discharge papers, or equivalent certification from the DVA, listing military status, dates of service and Character of Discharge. Active duty for training shall not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.
(g)	Current Reserve members and National Guard members should provide a signed memorandum from their military supervisor confirming their Active status in the Reserves or Guard.

Note:

Veterans who have served active duty under Title 10 for six months or less are frequently not provided a form DD-214; therefore, it will be necessary for these veterans to provide a copy of their military orders containing their report and release dates and a letter of reference attesting to their "Honorable" service signed by the military human resources department or the commanding officer (or equivalent officer) in charge of their active duty assignment. Other documentation may also be required as per Rule 55A-7, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

POSITIONS THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM VETERANS' PREFERENCE

The following list identifies the positions that are exempt under Section 295.07(5):

- a) Positions of employment offered by the State as designated in Section 110.205 (2), F.S. (for a complete list see F.S.).

- b) Positions in political subdivisions which are filled by officers elected by popular vote or persons appointed to fill vacancies in such offices.
- c) Members of boards and commissions.
- d) Persons employed on temporary basis without benefits and/or part-time positions.
- e) Positions that require the employee to be a member of The Florida Bar.