Florida: contractor reciprocity & license-transfer checklist

Licensing board: Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB), Florida DBPR · https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/construction-industry/ · Checked November 20, 2026

> **Not legal advice.** General information only, not legal advice. Each fact is our plain-English summary of the linked official source on the date shown, and may be incomplete, out of date or wrong. Licensing rules change. Confirm with the official licensing board and a licensed professional (an attorney, and your CPA or broker for deal terms) before you act.

Moving here: reciprocity and exam waivers

- Florida law lists four routes to certification by endorsement: passing a substantially equivalent national, regional, state or territorial exam (and meeting Florida's other requirements); holding another state's license issued on substantially equivalent criteria; holding a license from a state with a reciprocal agreement with the board; or holding another state's license for at least 10 years and applying for the same or a similar license, subject to further conditions in the statute.
  Florida Statutes 489.115: Certification and registration; endorsement; reciprocity, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.115.html
- We did not verify a current list of states with reciprocal agreements from an official Florida page, so we don't list any. Ask CILB before you rely on a reciprocal agreement.
  Florida Statutes 489.115: Certification and registration; endorsement; reciprocity, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.115.html

Buying or selling a licensed business

- A person contracting in their own name, or as a sole proprietorship under a fictitious name, is certified or registered as that individual.
  Florida Statutes 489.119: Business organizations; qualifying agents, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.119.html
- To contract as a business organization (partnership, corporation, business trust or other legal entity), the applicant applies as the qualifying agent of that organization, and the application must name its partners, officers and directors, or members. The qualifying agent pays a fee equal to the original fee to qualify a new business organization.
  Florida Statutes 489.119: Business organizations; qualifying agents, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.119.html
- The board must approve a qualifying agent qualifying additional business organizations, based on evidence the agent can supervise each one.
  Florida Statutes 489.119: Business organizations; qualifying agents, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.119.html

When the qualifier leaves

- If a qualifying agent leaves, they must inform the department. If they were the only certified or registered contractor in the business, the business must notify the department and has 60 days from the termination to employ another qualifying agent.
  Florida Statutes 489.119: Business organizations; qualifying agents, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.119.html

- Until then the business may not engage in contracting, unless a temporary nonrenewable certificate is granted to an officer or partner who takes on the qualifying agent's duties, and that only covers contracts already entered into.
  Florida Statutes 489.119: Business organizations; qualifying agents, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.119.html
- A sole primary qualifying agent under a joint agreement who resigns stops being responsible when a new primary is designated or 60 days after the board gets satisfactory notice, whichever comes first.
  Florida Statutes 489.1195: Responsibilities, Florida Legislature (Online Sunshine): https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.1195.html

Deadlines (calendar days from the event date; write in your dates)

Event	Period	What is due	Your date
Sole qualifying agent leaves the business	60 days	Business must employ a new qualifying agent (no new contracting until then without a temporary certificate)	_____
Sole primary qualifying agent (joint agreement) gives notice to terminate	60 days	Agent's status ends, if no new primary was designated sooner	_____

> We found no official deadline for an ownership change in the statutes we checked.

Checklist

☐ Looked up the license on the CILB site: legal entity, number, classes, status, expiration, qualifier.

☐ Decided deal structure (asset purchase vs. buying the licensed entity) with counsel.

☐ Confirmed whether the qualifier stays after closing; calendared the notice and replacement dates above.

☐ Started the buyer's own license application, if needed, before closing.

☐ Checked exam waivers or endorsement for the buyer's qualifier on both boards' pages.

☐ Arranged bonds and insurance in the licensee's exact legal name.

☐ Confirmed every date with CILB and a licensed professional.

Notes

Free from Contractor Reciprocity (https://contractor-reciprocity.pages.dev), run by Diamond Ray Inc, support@liteflow.app. Facts checked November 20, 2026. General information only, not legal advice. Each fact is our plain-English summary of the linked official source on the date shown, and may be incomplete, out of date or wrong. Licensing rules change. Confirm with the official licensing board and a licensed professional (an attorney, and your CPA or broker for deal terms) before you act. Not affiliated with, endorsed by or sponsored by any state licensing board, government agency or NASCLA. Board names are used only to identify the official sources we cite.