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How to Move Out of Illinois and Establish Florida Domicile

TURN ON – to Florida (easy!)

- Secure a new Florida driver license
- Register to vote in Florida and vote in person (not absentee)
- Register automobiles in Florida
- Elect homestead exemption on Florida home
- Sign and file a Declaration of Florida Domicile
- Purchase burial plot
- Change your mailing address to Florida on all federal benefits, bank statements, and important documents

TUNE IN – to Florida (also easy!)

- Prepare a new Florida estate plan
- Engage Florida legal, medical, financial, veterinary, and tax professionals
- Establish new Florida utilities
- Subscribe to Florida newspapers and periodicals
- Join a place of worship and clubs in Florida
- Join Florida charity and corporate boards
- Spend more time in Florida
- Make most business transactions in Florida
- Pay Florida taxes, as appropriate
- Make large business transactions while in Florida
- Secure resident hunting and/or fishing license
- Your Florida home should be larger than your Illinois home
- Find a Florida veterinarian for pets

DROP OUT – of Illinois (a bit harder!)

- Physically move out of Illinois
- Sell Illinois home
- If an Illinois home is kept, obtain legal advice on how to avoid Illinois estate tax on that home
- Cancel Illinois homestead exemption**
- Your spouse must also waive homestead exemption in all states other than Florida
- File final Illinois resident income tax return
- Minimize use of Illinois address
- Spend less time and less money in Illinois – cannot be in Illinois more than any other state (keep a log/spreadsheets of location)
- Cancel Illinois voter registration
- Do not register vehicles, boats, etc. in Illinois
- Make fewer business transactions in Illinois
- Cancel Illinois business and professional licenses
- Cancel Illinois club memberships, or switch to non-resident status
- Surrender Illinois FOID and CCL, if applicable
- Remove pets, wedding albums, collections, car titles, art, important papers, sentimental items, and trophies from Illinois house
- Resign from Illinois charity and corporate boards
- Cancel Illinois utilities, if possible
- Suspend Illinois professionals
- Transfer any burial plots
- Send “We’ve Moved!” cards
- Close your Illinois Safe Deposit Box
- Keep copies of all mail transfer requests

NOTE: The test is not “**just six months and a day**” in Florida and you are home free! You must actually intend to be a Floridian, and the points referenced above help to prove that intent.

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