



Frequently Asked Questions about Retired Licenses

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What is the purpose of the retired architect license?

The retired license is intended for an architect who has reached the end of their career and wishes to have formal, permanent closure on their license. We have found that many architects do not wish to have a "delinquent" or "expired" license status, because these terms can have negative connotations. The retired license provides an alternative without any perceived stigma.

What will I get with a retired architect license?

You will receive a wall certificate stating that you are a retired architect, and you will acquire the right to use the title "retired architect"; your license will have a status of "Retired" in our public license search.

What is the benefit of applying for a retired architect license, other than being able to renew license within 5 years?

You can use the title of "Retired Architect" if you no longer wish to practice and bring formal closure to your professional architect career. Your record will also show a "Permanently Retired" Status after 5 years, rather than a "Delinquent or Expired" status for those that just let their license lapse without renewing or retiring their license.

When can I retire my architect license?

Anytime your license is active, or within five years from the date of your last renewal. Please be advised that nonrenewable licenses, meaning licenses that have been expired more than five years, are not eligible for retirement.

Can I still practice architecture with a retired license?

No. The retired license does not permit any architectural work that requires an active license.

Does the retired license need to be renewed?

No. The \$40 fee is a one-time payment.

Do I need to complete continuing education with a retired license?

No. You will only need to complete CE if you later choose to bring your license back to an active status; within five years from the date of your last renewal.

If I choose to retire my license, can I reinstate my license later?

Yes. The retired license has no effect on your ability to renew. You have five years from the expiration date of your license to renew it, even if you've retired it in the meantime, upon payment of all accrued renewal fees during the time the license was retired (plus a possible delinquency fee). After five years, your license becomes nonrenewable, and thereafter cannot be renewed or reinstated under any circumstances. The retired license does not change any of this.

If CE units are NOT required, how does one make up back year CE units if renewing later, but within the five-year period?

If you plan on renewing your license within 5 years from the date of last renewal you must then complete the CE requirements for the current renewal cycle.

Can I retire my license to temporarily suspend it?

No. The retired license is intended as a *permanent* closure of the license. It cannot be used as a temporary suspension and using it in this way provides no benefits over simply letting your license expire.

Can I submit my retired license application via email?

Yes. CAB will accept a legible scanned copy of the retired license application sent via email to our cab@dca.ca.gov email address provided the application is complete and has your signature. However, we cannot accept payment over the phone. Payment must be by check or money order and mailed to the CAB office at the address located at the top of this FAQs.

Can I use a digital signature on my retired license application?

Yes. CAB will accept a retired license application with your digital signature through a provider, such as Adobe Sign or DocuSign, that meet the requirements specified in [Government Code section 16.5](#). The California Secretary of State's Office has an [FAQs regarding digital signatures](#) that may be of assistance to you.