

**OWNER/BUILDER
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

REFERENCE: FLORIDA STATE STATUE 489.103(7)

THE OWNER MUST PERSONALLY APPEAR AND SIGN FOR THE BUILDING PERMIT

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF INDIAN RIVER:

Before me this day personally appeared: _____ who, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows: **I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PROVISIONS OF THIS INSTRUMENT.**

Florida State law requires construction to be done by licensed contractors. You have applied for a permit under an exemption to that law. The exemption allows you, as the owner of your property, to act as your own contractor with certain restrictions even though you do not have a license. You must provide direct, onsite supervision of the construction yourself. You may build or improve a one-family or two-family residence or a farm outbuilding. You may also build or improve a commercial building, provided your costs do not exceed \$75,000. The building or residence must be for your own use or occupancy. It may not be built or substantially improved for sale or lease. If you sell or lease a building you have built or substantially improved yourself within 1 year after the construction is complete, the law will presume that you built or substantially improved it for sale or lease, which is a violation of this exemption. You may not hire an unlicensed person to act as your contractor or to supervise people working on your building.

It is your responsibility to make sure that people employed by you have a license required by state law and by county, or municipal licensing ordinances. You may not delegate the responsibility for supervising work to a licensed contractor who is not licensed to perform the work being done. Any person working on your building who is not licensed must work under your direct supervision and must be employed by you, which means that you must deduct F.I.C.A. and withholding tax and provide workers compensation for that employee, all as prescribed by law.

Your construction must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, building codes, and zoning regulations.

_____ 1. I understand that state law requires construction to be done by a licensed contractor and have applied for an owner-builder permit under an exemption from the law. The exemption specifies that I, as the owner of the property listed, may act as my own contractor with certain restrictions even though I do not have a license.

_____ 2. I understand that building permits are not required to be signed by a property owner unless he or she is responsible for the construction and is not hiring a licensed contractor to assume responsibility.

_____ 3. I understand that, as an owner-builder, I am the responsible party of record on a permit. I understand that I may protect myself from potential financial risk by hiring a licensed contractor and having the permit filed in his or her name instead of my own name. I also understand that a contractor is required by law to be licensed in Florida and to list his or her license numbers on permits and contracts.

_____ 4. I understand that I may build or improve a one-family or two-family residence or a farm outbuilding. I may also build or improve a commercial building if the costs do not exceed \$75,000. The building or residence must be for my own use or occupancy. It may not be built or substantially improved for sale or lease, unless I am completing the requirements of a building permit where the contractor listed on the permit substantially completed the project. If a building or residence that I have built or improved myself is sold or leased/or offered for sale or lease within 1 year after the construction is complete, the law will presume that I built or improved it for sale or lease, which violates the exemption.

_____ 5. I understand that, as the owner-builder, I must provide direct, onsite supervision of the construction.

_____ 6. I understand that I may not hire an unlicensed person to act as my contractor or to supervise persons working on my building or residence. It is my responsibility to ensure that the persons whom I employ have the licenses required by law and by county or municipal ordinance.

_____ 7. I understand that it is a frequent practice of unlicensed persons to have the property owner obtain an owner-builder permit that erroneously implies that the property owner is providing his or her own labor and materials. I, as an owner-builder, may be held liable and subjected to serious financial risk for any injuries sustained by an unlicensed person or his or her employees while working on my property. My homeowner's insurance may not provide coverage for those injuries. I am willfully acting as an owner-builder and am aware of the limits of my insurance coverage for injuries to workers on my property.

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____ 8. I understand that I may not delegate the responsibility for supervising work to a licensed contractor who is not licensed to perform the work being done. Any person working on my building who is not licensed must work under my direct supervision and must be employed by me, which means that I must comply with laws requiring the withholding of federal income tax and social security contributions under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and must provide workers' compensation for the employee. I understand that my failure to follow these laws may subject me to serious financial risk.

____ 9. I agree that, as the party legally and financially responsible for this proposed construction activity, I will abide by all applicable laws and requirements that govern owner-builders as well as employers. I also understand that the construction must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, building codes, and zoning regulations.

____ 10. I understand that I may obtain more information regarding my obligations as an employer from the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Small Business Administration, the Florida Department of Financial Services, and the Florida Department of Revenue. I also understand that I may contact the Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board at 1-850-487-1395 or www.MyFloridaLicense.com for more information about licensed contractors.

____ 11. I am aware of, and consent to, an owner-builder building permit applied for in my name and understand that I am the party legally and financially responsible for the proposed construction activity at the following address _____.

____ 12. I agree to notify the Indian River County Building Division in writing immediately of any additions, deletions, or changes to any of the information that I have provided on this disclosure.

____ **13. I understand and agree that this building cannot be occupied until a "Certificate of Occupancy" has been issued by the Building Official. (NOTE: a Certificate of Occupancy must be requested by the permit holder after the FINAL inspection has been approved).**

Licensed contractors are regulated by laws designed to protect the public. If you contract with a person who does not have a license, the Construction Industry Licensing Board and Department of Business and Professional Regulation may be unable to assist you with any financial loss that you sustain as a result of a complaint. Your only remedy against an unlicensed contractor may be in civil court. It is also important for you to understand that, if an unlicensed contractor or employee of an individual or firm is injured while working on your property, you may be held liable for damages. If you obtain an owner-builder permit and wish to hire a licensed contractor, you will be responsible for verifying whether the contractor is properly licensed and the status of the contractor's workers' compensation coverage.

Before a building permit can be issued, this disclosure statement must be completed and signed by the property owner and returned to the local permitting agency responsible for issuing the permit. A copy of the property owner's driver license, the notarized signature of the property owner, or other type of verification acceptable to the local permitting agency is required when the permit is issued.

The undersigned further agrees that should he be unable to comply with the above requirements, he shall hire a licensed contractor to take over and complete the job in strict compliance with applicable local codes and ordinances.

Owners Signature

Present Address

Owners Printed Name

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF INDIAN RIVER:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20__ by _____ who:

____ is personally known by me - OR -
____ produced as identification:

Type of Identification

NOTARY PUBLIC: STATE OF FLORIDA