

# State Clemency Resources


## Which form(s) of clemency does the state offer?

- Pardons (absolute and certificate of employability)
- Commutation

Connecticut offers two forms of pardons—a provisional pardon and an expungement pardon. Provisional pardons are also referred to as Certificates of Employability or Certificates of Rehabilitation. Expungement pardons are also referred to as Absolute Pardons. A provisional pardon is a type of a pardon that is meant to relieve an eligible [person] of barriers or forfeitures because of [their] conviction of the crime or crimes specified in the provisional pardon (i.e., employment disqualification). An expungement pardon relieves all legal disabilities, including those relating to employment and licensure, and results in 'erasure' of court records relating to the offense.

## Decisionmaker

The Board of Pardons and Paroles

 **Resources:** [portal.ct.gov/bopp](https://portal.ct.gov/bopp)

## Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:** Conn. Const Art. IV § 13
- **Statutory Authority:** Conn. Gen. Stat. Ch. 961, § 54-124a

## Eligibility Criteria

### ■ Absolute Pardon Eligibility:

 [portal.ct.gov/BOPP/Pardon-Division/Pardon/Eligibility](https://portal.ct.gov/BOPP/Pardon-Division/Pardon/Eligibility)

You may apply to the Pardons Board for an Absolute Pardon, which is an absolute erasure of your criminal record, THREE (3) YEARS after the date of disposition of your most recent MISDEMEANOR conviction and FIVE (5) YEARS after the date of disposition of your most recent FELONY conviction. If you have a case that was "nolled," you are not eligible to apply for any type of pardon until the nolle has cleared. A nolle remains for a period of thirteen (13) months after the date of disposition by the court. Additionally, you cannot be on any form of supervision when applying for an Absolute Pardon, have any pending charges or open cases in any other jurisdiction (state or federal). PLEASE NOTE: You cannot apply for erasure of one offense and not another. Only your entire criminal history will be considered for a full pardon.

- **Certificate of Employability:** Anyone convicted of a crime in Connecticut who has served their sentence can apply for a provisional pardon.

- **Expedited Pardon:** If you are convicted of a non-violent offense(s) where there is no victim interest, you may be considered for an Expedited Review. Following receipt of your application, staff will review to determine if you will be scheduled for an Expedited Review without a hearing or a standard pre-screen review. If you qualify for an Expedited Review, you may be granted an Absolute Pardon without being required to be present. At an Expedited Review, the Board may choose to grant an Absolute Pardon, deny your application for a pardon or continue your application to a full panel hearing. There is no separate application process.

### ■ Parole Eligibility:

- (1) Generally, the Board may only consider parole for people serving a total effective sentence (i.e., definite sentence) of at least 2 years and 1 day. Generally, state law requires that these individuals serve at least 50% of their total effective sentence less any jail or risk reduction credits before the Board is allowed to parole them.
- (2) People with an offense involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person—also referred to as ‘violent offenders’—must serve at least 85% of their total effective sentence [minus] any jail credit before the Board is allowed to parole them. The Board determines whether an offense involved physical force against another person pursuant to agency regulation codified at Regs., Conn. State Agencies §§ 54-125a-1—54-125a-6. A list of offenses which automatically result in an 85% designation is available [on the Board of Pardon and Parole’s web page regarding parole].
- (3) Generally, people serving a sentence for any of the following crimes are not eligible for parole:
  - ▶ 53A-54A Murder
  - ▶ 53A-54B Capital Felony Murder
  - ▶ 53A-54C Felony Murder
  - ▶ 53A-54D Arson Murder
  - ▶ 53A-70A Aggravated Sexual Assault 1st

People serving a sentence for one of the above-listed offenses may be eligible if the offense was committed when they were under 18.

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## Application Process

### ■ Provisional and Expungement Pardon Process:

 [portal.ct.gov/BOPP/Pardon-Division/Pardon/Application-Process-and-Instructions](https://portal.ct.gov/BOPP/Pardon-Division/Pardon/Application-Process-and-Instructions)

- (1) Obtain all required documents, which are noted on the application form.
- (2) Compile any additional documents you wish to include with your pardon application.
- (3) Ensure all documents you will be submitting with your pardon application are in one of the following formats: .jpeg, .pdf or .png.

Apply for a pardon by visiting the Board’s ePardons Portal, which is on their pardon “Process and Instructions” page. Parole hearings are generally held on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**■ Parole Process:**

- (1) The Parole Board determines when you are eligible for parole.
- (2) If it elects to review your case, it will schedule a hearing.
- (3) Parole hearings are either conducted via video connection or "in-person"/ live at the institution. Each hearing consists of three board members and a parole officer. You will be allowed to express to the board why you believe they should be paroled, the Board then will ask you questions, after which it will convene to make a decision on your request. The Board will inform you of its decision at your hearing.

**APPLICATION LINKS**

 [portal.ct.gov/BOPP/Pardon-Division/Pardon/Pardon-Info](https://portal.ct.gov/BOPP/Pardon-Division/Pardon/Pardon-Info)