

State Clemency Resources

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

- Pardons
- Commutations
- Restoration of civil rights

Decisionmaker

The Office of the Governor

Resources:

- 🔗 governor.ky.gov/services/application-for-pardons-and-commutations
- 🔗 **Information and Status Checker for Restoration of Civil Rights:**
civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov/Pages/home.aspx

Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:**
Ky. Const. § 77

Eligibility Criteria

The governor has the sole power to grant pardons or commutations in Kentucky. They may use whatever information they deem appropriate to make a decision, such as the applicant's acceptance of responsibility or post-conviction conduct. Anyone who was convicted of a crime in Kentucky may apply for a pardon or commutation.

Application Process

Kentuckians who were convicted of crimes and wish to receive a pardon or commutation from [the governor] must apply using [an application form that can be found on the governor's website.] In that application, they must list all previous and pending charges and convictions, list their employment history, and include a letter explaining why they believe they deserve a pardon or commutation. They must also include a minimum of three letters of recommendation supporting their application. Finally, they must authorize Governor's office to conduct thorough investigations of the applicants' history and background, including their criminal and employment record.

APPLICATION LINKS

- 🔗 governor.ky.gov/services/application-for-pardons-and-commutations
- 🔗 **Application for Restoration of Civil Rights:** aclukansas.org/en/publications/filing-clemency-toolkit