

State Clemency Resources

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

- Pardons
- Commutations

Decisionmaker

The Maryland Parole Commission reviews pardon requests. The governor makes the final decision. Applications for pardons are submitted to the Office of the Governor via the Maryland Parole Commission.

Resources:

- 🔗 news.maryland.gov/dpsc
- 🔗 **General Pardon Information:**
dpsc.maryland.gov/about/FAQmpc.shtml

Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:**
Md. Const. Art. II § 20
- **Statutory Authority:**
Md. Code, Corr. Servs. § 7-206
Md. Code, Corr. Servs. § 7-601

Eligibility Criteria

■ Pardon Criteria:

- (1) You must have served your sentence/cannot be incarcerated to submit a petition for a pardon.
- (2) People who committed misdemeanors must remain crime-free from the date of their sentence, must have been released from incarceration, or released from parole or probation (whichever last occurred) for a period of five years.
- (3) People who committed felonies must remain crime-free from the date of their sentence, must have been released from incarceration, or released from parole or probation (whichever last occurred) for a period of ten years. The Parole Commission may consider cases in which seven years have elapsed.
- (4) People who were convicted of crimes of violence as defined in Criminal Law Article, sec. 14-101 and those convicted of controlled dangerous substance violations must remain crime-free from the date of their sentence, must have been released from incarceration, or released from parole or probation (whichever last occurred) for a period of twenty years.

- **Commutation Criteria:** Neither the law nor the Maryland Parole Commission explain the eligibility criteria for a commutation. The Parole Commission's website simply states you must send a written request to the governor for a commutation.

Application Process

- **Pardon Process:** An Application For Pardon must be completed, signed and returned to the Maryland Parole Commission, 6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite 307, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 along with certified copies of the docket entries for any crime that resulted in a conviction in the State of Maryland. This information can be obtained from the Clerk of the Court where sentencing occurred. The certified copies of the docket entries that you submit must be stamped by the court with the words 'True Copy,Test,' bear the signature of the Clerk of the Court and the Court's seal. In addition, you must attach the required documentation outlined on the Pardon Application Checklist.

- **Commutation Process:** To request a commutation, you must send a written request to the Governor. The mailing address for the Governor is 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401.

APPLICATION LINKS

- 🔗 dpscs.state.md.us/publicservs/pardons.shtml
- 🔗 sos.maryland.gov/Pages/Services/Pardon-Commutations.aspx#:~:text=To%20request%20a%20commutation%2C%20you,Circle%2C%20Annapolis%2C%20MD%2021401