

# State Clemency Resources

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

- Pardons
- Commutations of sentence
- Reprieves
- Remission of fines

Anyone who has been convicted of a criminal offense by a court of competent jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may apply for a pardon or a commutation of a sentence.

The Pennsylvania Board of Pardons (BOP) has also established an expedited review program for non-violent marijuana-specific convictions.

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## Decisionmaker

The Board of Pardons exists as a separate entity that has the authority to make recommendations to the Governor for pardons, reprieves, commutations of sentence, and executive clemency. The Governor is prohibited from bypassing normal procedure and granting clemency on the basis of special circumstances. He is authorized to grant clemency only upon a favorable recommendation by the Board of Pardons. The Governor is not bound to accept the recommendation of the Board of Pardons, but exercises an independent judgment in all cases.

### Resources:

- 🔗 [bop.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx](https://bop.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx)
- 🔗 [bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Pages/default.aspx](https://bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Pages/default.aspx)
- 🔗 [bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Documents/BOP%20Pardon%20Cheat%20Sheet-5-3-21.pdf](https://bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Documents/BOP%20Pardon%20Cheat%20Sheet-5-3-21.pdf)

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## Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:**  
Pennsylvania Constitution, Article IV, 9, as most recently amended on November 4, 1997.
- **Statutory Authority:**  
The Administrative Code of 1929, 71 P.S. 299, as amended by Act 15 of 1995.  
The Board of Pardons Regulations, 37 Pa Code 81.1, et seq.

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## Eligibility Criteria

Clearly and compellingly demonstrate that you have been rehabilitated or reformed of your previous criminogenic behavior/mindset.

Information on eligibility for the expedited review program:

- 🔗 [bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Pages/Expedited-Review-Program.aspx](https://bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Pages/Expedited-Review-Program.aspx)

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## Application Process

Complete your application and make sure the required court documents accompany your application (applications that are missing court documents will be rejected).

Pardon applications should be sent to:

PA Board of Pardons  
333 Market Street, 15th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

If you are incarcerated, and would like to apply for Clemency, obtain the Application Packet from your Institutional Library. Additionally incarcerated applicants do not need to obtain court documents to submit with their application.

### APPLICATION LINKS

- 🔗 [bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Pages/How-to-Obtain-an-Application.aspx333](https://bop.pa.gov/Apply%20for%20Clemency/Pages/How-to-Obtain-an-Application.aspx333)