

State Clemency Resources

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

- Pardons

Decisionmaker

Once they turn in the Pardon application, which consists of letters of reference and a fee, it is then investigated by Agents in the county where the first offense occurred.

When the investigation is completed, it is given to the Paroles and Pardons Board for a hearing.

An Order of Pardon shall be signed by at least two thirds of the members of the Board.

Upon a favorable consideration by the Board, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall issue a Pardon Certificate.

In the State of South Carolina, all pardons are granted by a seven-member board, not the Governor. Pursuant to the State Constitution, the Governor may only grant a reprieve and commute a sentence of death to a sentence of life imprisonment. All other pardons are granted by the Board of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

Resources:

- dppps.sc.gov/Parole-Pardon-Hearings

Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:**
Section 14 of Article IV of the South Carolina Constitution
- **Statutory Authority:**
South Carolina Code of Laws 17-25-322, SECTION 24-21-5

Eligibility Criteria

- **For probationers:** Probationers can be considered any time after discharge from supervision, provided all restitution has been paid in full.
- **For parolees:** Parolees can be considered:
 - ▶ Any time after successfully completing five years under supervision
 - ▶ Any time after the discharge date and after successfully completing the maximum parole period, if less than five years
 - ▶ Provided all restitution has been paid in full
- **For persons discharged from a sentence:** These individuals can be considered any time after the date of discharge, provided all restitution has been paid in full.
- **For inmates:** Inmates may be considered any time prior to becoming parole-eligible upon proof of the most extraordinary circumstances. The Board will decide, based upon the submission of proof of extraordinary circumstances, whether the evidence demonstrates such circumstances. All restitution must still be paid in full.
- **For inmates with a terminal illness:** These inmates may be considered any time after they are afflicted with a terminal illness with a life expectancy of one year or less. The Board will decide, based upon the submissions and finding, if the evidence demonstrates a condition that meets these criteria. Two separate doctor's statements documenting life expectancy must be attached to the application. All restitution must be paid in full.

Application Process

Once they turn in the Pardon application, which consists of letters of reference and a fee, it is then investigated by Agents in the county where the first offense occurred. When the investigation is completed, it is given to the Paroles and Pardons Board for a hearing.

The pardon application has three components:

- (1) Written letters of support
- (2) Information from the applicant
- (3) Payment of application fee

This application can be requested either in writing or by calling the SCDPPPS Central Office. The contact information is as follows:

Paroles, Pardons and Release Services
Attn: Pardon Application Processing
293 Greystone Blvd. / Columbia, SC 29210
P.O. Box 207 Columbia, SC 29202
803-734-8989

APPLICATION LINK

[🔗 dppps.sc.gov/Parole-Pardon-Hearings/Pardon-Application](https://dppps.sc.gov/Parole-Pardon-Hearings/Pardon-Application)