

State Clemency Resources

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

- Pardons

Decisionmaker

Prisoners must submit applications to the Governor for review.

The granting of a pardon is an extraordinary act of clemency, solely within the discretion of the Governor. The Governor's determination is not subject to appeal.

Resources:

- governor.vermont.gov/content/pardon-request

Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:**
Chapter II, Section 20 of the Vermont Constitution
- **Statutory Authority:**
Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 28, § 453

Eligibility Criteria

A substantial period of time must have elapsed since the date of conviction. Generally, a ten-year time period for a felony conviction and a five-year period of time for a misdemeanor conviction is required. A pardon will not be considered for a person who is currently incarcerated or under sentence except in very unusual circumstances where there is independent evidence of a gross miscarriage of justice not reviewable through the courts.

Application Process

There is no provision for an in-person hearing. The process takes a minimum of several months to complete, and the contents of the application may be available via a public records request.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the Pardon Application by U.S. mail, call the Office of the Governor at 802-828-3333.

Return the completed document to:

Pardon Coordinator
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101

APPLICATION LINKS

- governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/pardon%20application.FINAL%202017.pdf