

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Pardons Process:

1. What types of pardons are available?

There are two types of pardons:

- An Expungement pardon is an erasure of the official criminal record. You may apply to the Board for an expungement 3 years after the date of the disposition of your most recent misdemeanor conviction and/or 5 years after the date of the disposition of your most recent felony conviction. A provisional pardon will not expunge the offense from your record.
- A provisional pardon merely states that the applicant is employable, making it illegal for the employer to deny employment based on the applicant's criminal record alone.

2. Am I eligible for a pardon?

-That depends on how much time has passed since the conviction date for the offense that is to be pardoned. In regards to a full pardon; an individual is eligible to apply five years from the date of conviction for a felony and three years from the date of conviction for a misdemeanor.

3. How can I get a pardon application?

-The Board of Pardons encourages anyone interested in obtaining a pardon application to go the official D.O.C. web site at www.ct.gov/doc/bopp. If you cannot obtain the application from the Board's website, than you can call the Board of Pardons and Paroles' office at (203)-805-6643 for assistance.

4. Is there a deadline date to apply?

-No, there is no deadline date; The Board of Pardons processes applications on a first-come, first serve basis

5. How long does the entire Pardons process take?

-Approximately twelve months; The Board, the State Police, and the Judicial Department all have to review the criminal record of the applicant during the pardon process to ensure that all convictions are considered and expunged as required.

6. What is on my State Police Criminal History Sheet?

-The State Police Criminal history sheet lists most of the convictions within the state of Connecticut. It does not list out of state or Federal charges. There may be other convictions that are not listed on the State Police criminal history sheet: for example certain Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Driving While Intoxicated (D.W.I.) and Reckless Driving offenses. Also, some non-fingerprinted convictions may not be on the

Criminal History sheet but will appear in your records check. The individual requesting the pardon is responsible for identifying and listing all of their previous offenses.

7. I cannot remember the date of my crime nor the details. What should I put on my application form?

-You must list all of the offenses that you have been convicted of, with explanations. Failure to list and explain every conviction may result in a denial of your application. The Board may deny the application due to the omissions.

8. Why do I have to pay a fee to the State Police?

-The Board does not currently charge a fee for applying for a pardon. However you must make out a check or money order to the State Police Department of Public Safety (DPS). The money paid is for the cost of producing your Criminal History sheet. DPS will mail your criminal history sheet directly to you.

9. Do I need to get all the police reports if I have multiple offenses?

-Yes, a police report must be submitted for each offense, if the arrest occurred within the last ten years ago.

10. Does the Board have to know about Misdemeanors and Infractions?

-Yes, you have to list every offense you have been convicted of, including Misdemeanors. Infractions are generally not considered for a pardon because they will eventually be removed from the criminal history database, after a specified period of time.

11. Do I need to complete the fingerprint card to get my criminal history from the State Police? I have a background check from my previous employer.

-Yes, you need to complete a finger print card and present it to the State Police, with the fee, and 'Criminal History Request' form in order to get your Criminal History sheet. Background checks from previous employers will not be accepted as a substitute for the document from the State Police.

12. When I re-apply do I have to use new references? Also, can you send me a copy of my old application?

-You may use the same references; however you must complete a new application for the Board to review.

13. Do I need an attorney or other legal representation to apply for a pardon? Does having such representation improve my chances of getting a pardon?

-You do not need a lawyer or any other representation to apply for a pardon. Having a lawyer will not accelerate the review of your application or convey a special status on it. The Board of Pardons and Paroles treats all applications in the same manner.

14. What happens to my pending court case while I am applying for a pardon?

-If you have pending cases, the Board will not review nor hear your case

15. How many hearings are there per year?

-There are currently eight full hearings per year.

16. Why does the process take so long?

-The granting of a pardon process is an extreme remedy. It is a thoughtful and deliberative process where many things are considered. The process takes up to twelve months because of the large number of applications received by the Board of Pardons on a monthly basis. The record checks that need to be completed and the sheer logistics involved in clearing a person's criminal history contribute to the length of the process.

17. Will I have to appear at the Pardons Hearing?

-Yes, the Board will require your presence at the Hearing. You will be notified by letter of the Board's requirements regarding appearances.

18. How does the Board decide who does or does not get a pardon?

- At all times that Board has the discretion to grant or deny any pardon application. The Board decides whether or not to grant a pardon, based on the severity of the offense, the impact on the victim and the victims input, past criminal history and how much time has passed since the commission of the original offense. The States Attorney's opinion is also taken into consideration, along with what the individual has done since the offense occurred. The Board considers the individuals work history; whether you have they stayed out of criminal justice system, personal references, etc. Besides the aforementioned the Board may consider any other pertinent information available in deciding to grant or deny a pardon. Volunteer and community service activities on the part of the applicant are encouraged.

19. If I am denied because not enough time has passed, then how much time is enough time?

-Regardless of eligibility (three years for misdemeanor and five for a felony), if the Board determines that you are not suitable for a pardon, then your case will be denied.

20. If I get denied then what are my chances the next time I apply?

-The pardon process is based on an individual's eligibility and suitability; however the ultimate outcome of a pardon application cannot be predicted.

21. If I am denied, what can I do to guarantee that my pardon will be granted in the future?

-There is no guarantee that a pardon will be granted.

22. If I am denied a pardon, do I have to wait an entire year from the hearing date to re-apply for a pardon?

-Generally you must wait one year from the date of denial before you can reapply. The Board may at its discretion specify a longer waiting period. The letter of denial will specify the Board's requirements.

23. If I am granted a pardon, will all of my records be expunged, including the application that I sent to your office?

-Your application will remain on file with the Board, however, if you are granted a full pardon then the offense(s) pardoned will be expunged from the criminal record database.