

PARDON FACT SHEET

SIMPLE PARDON	CONDITIONAL PARDON	ABSOLUTE PARDON
<p>A simple pardon is a statement of official forgiveness. It does not remove the conviction from the record. If a simple pardon is granted, a notation will be added to the criminal record showing the word “pardon” next to the conviction.</p> <p><i>In order to petition for a simple pardon, you must:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Be free of all conditions set by the court (including any probation period, suspended time, or good time behavior) on all convictions followed by a waiting period of five years. (2) Have been granted your Restoration of Rights before petitioning for the pardon. This is only required if a felony was involved. 	<p>A conditional pardon is an act to modify or end a sentence imposed by the court. Conditional pardons are rare. Conditional pardons are only available to those currently incarcerated.</p> <p>Medical A medical pardon is a form of a conditional pardon and is granted to incarcerated individuals who are terminally ill. In order to be considered for medical clemency, the individual must have a life expectancy of three months or less.</p> <p>Immigration A partial pardon is a form of a conditional pardon and can be granted to individuals who are experiencing immigration issues. In order to be considered for immigration related clemency, the individual must be facing deportation in 30 days or less. Due to this shortened time frame, immigration clemency requests are handled in an expedited process.</p>	<p>An absolute pardon may be granted when the Governor is convinced that the petitioner is innocent of the charge for which he or she was convicted.</p> <p><i>In order to petition for an absolute pardon, you must have:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Pled not guilty throughout the judicial process (2) Exhausted all forms of judicial appeals and other remedies, including a Writ of Actual Innocence

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does a pardon take?

There is no reliable method of predicting how long a pardon petition will take to complete. The investigation process may take two years or longer. We appreciate your patience during this time.

Can the Governor pardon me for crimes I was convicted of in another state or at the federal level?

No. The Governor only has authority to pardon crimes committed in Virginia.

Will I get the documents back that I submit with my petition?

Documents (or copies of documents) submitted to our office for pardon consideration cannot be copied or returned. For this reason, please be sure to retain copies of all documents sent to our office.

Will I have the opportunity to testify about my petition?

The petition process does not include a hearing, meeting, or conference with the petitioner or persons on the petitioner's behalf.

Contact Information

Please direct all questions to:
pardons@governor.virginia.gov
804-692-2542

For the most prompt response, please contact the pardons staff via email