

Governor Tom Wolf, Lt. Governor John Fetterman, and the PA Board of Pardons have partnered to create the PA Marijuana Pardon Project to support second chances for as many people as possible.

Applicants do not need to contact the Board of Pardons for an update on the status of applications. Applicants will be contacted if follow-up is needed. Those with questions about other convictions can find more information at the PA Board of Pardons [website](#).

Q: What is a pardon?

A: A pardon is an act by the Governor of Pennsylvania that acts as forgiveness for a conviction from your criminal record. While a pardon constitutes complete forgiveness, those who are granted a pardon will still need to petition the court for an expungement of the conviction from their record.

Q: Who is eligible to be included in the PA Marijuana Pardon Project?

A: People whose criminal history **ONLY** includes one or both of the following convictions:

- Title 35 Section 780-113 Subsection A31 (Poss. Of Marijuana), and/or
- Title 35 Section 780-113 Subsection A31I (Marijuana-Small Amt Personal Use)

These convictions must be in Pennsylvania. There is no limitation on how long ago the convictions have occurred, as long as they are the only convictions on a person's record.

Q: Is someone eligible to be included in the PA Marijuana Pardon Project if they have criminal convictions in other states or the federal system?

A: No, only people with convictions for Title 35 Section 780-113 Subsection A31 (Poss. Of Marijuana), and/or Title 35 Section 780-113 Subsection A31I (Marijuana-Small Amt Personal Use) in PA who have no additional criminal history in PA or elsewhere are eligible to apply for the PA Marijuana Pardon Project program.

If you have additional or other convictions, please find instructions on applying for clemency on the Board of Pardons [website](#).

Q: What happens when this special application period ends? What happens to those who missed the deadline or those who have future charges?

A: When the PA Marijuana Pardon Project ends applicants should consider the established clemency process.

Instructions on applying for clemency can be found on the Board of Pardons [website](#).

Q: What is the timeframe and why is it so limited?

A: This is a special one-month application period during the month of September. The Board of Pardons will accept applications from September 1 to September 30, 2022. This timeframe is limited to ensure that applications will be able to receive a merit review at the October 13, 2022 hearing session. The timeframe is also limited by the short amount of time left in Governor Wolf's tenure as the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Q: What documentation do I need to submit my application?

Applicants will need to provide personal information including name/aliases, date of birth, address, phone number, and social security number. Additionally, applicants must provide the Offense Tracking Number (OTN) and Docket Number, and county of conviction for each qualifying conviction.

Q: What do I do if I do not have or can't find my Offense Tracking Number (OTN) or Docket Number for my convictions?

A: [The Pennsylvania Judiciary Web Portal](#) provides the public with access to various aspects of court information, including appellate courts, common pleas courts and magisterial district court docket sheets.

Q: Is there a fee or cost associated with this application?

A: No, there is no fee associated with the pardon process or the PA Marijuana Pardon Project specifically.

Q: Do I need an attorney or legal representation to participate in this process?

A: No, applicants do not need legal representation.

Q: What do I need to do once I submit my application for the PA Marijuana Pardon Project?

A: You will only be contacted by the Board of Pardons office if any follow-up information about your application is needed.

The Governor is not mandated to act in a specified amount of time after receiving recommendations from the Board of Pardons. Qualified applicants who are granted a pardon will be notified upon final action by the Governor before the end of the Wolf Administration in January 2023.

Q: Who is involved and how does the pardon process work? How can interested parties participate in the process?

A: The Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania chairs the Board of Pardons, which is responsible for hearing all of the applications for clemency. A list of board members can be found [here](#).

Merit review sessions are held for the Board to decide if applicants receive a public hearing. Merit review for applicants included in the PA Marijuana Pardon Project will be held on October 13, 2022. At the merit review hearing the Board will vote to either grant the applicant a public hearing, or not.

Board of Pardons members vote to either deny applications or recommend applications to the Governor during public hearing sessions, which are scheduled to be held December 13-16, 2022.

Recommendations then head to the Governor for consideration of a pardon. The Governor is not mandated to act in a specific amount of time after receiving the recommendations.

Applicants and interested parties may listen to the October 13, 2022 merit review session, as well as watch the December 13-16, 2022 public hearing session of the Board of Pardons to hear the Board's vote. Information on these sessions can be found [here](#).

Q: I have additional convictions on my record, am I eligible to apply for the PA Marijuana Pardon Project to have just my marijuana-related convictions pardoned?

A: While you are not eligible to be included in the PA Marijuana Pardon Project, you may [apply for clemency](#) using the application available on the [Board of Pardon's](#) webpage.

Q: What should I do if I've already applied for a pardon for my marijuana conviction?

The Board of Pardons office team is identifying applicants with previously submitted applications who would qualify to be included in the PA Marijuana Pardon Project. If you are not eligible for this limited time project, your previously submitted application will remain in the traditional queue to be reviewed by the Board of Pardons.

Q: What is the internal review process? Does someone review applications for accuracy?

The Board of Pardon's has partnered with other state agencies such as the Pennsylvania State Police to ensure that the criminal history of applicants is appropriately reviewed. Those who do not meet the eligibility criteria should not apply for clemency through this process.

Q: Will a pardon through the PA Marijuana Pardon Project program mean that my record is cleared?

A: While a pardon constitutes complete forgiveness for that conviction, people granted pardons must then petition the court for an expungement of that conviction from their record.

Expungements are handled by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Clerk of Courts in the county where a person was arrested. More information can be found in the [PA Guide to Pardons](#).

Q: Is the application for this project only online or can I send a paper copy to the Board of Pardons or Governor's Office?

A: All applications should be submitted electronically.

Q: What type of documentation will I receive if granted a pardon through this program? Will I receive documentation via U.S. Mail or email?

A: If the Governor grants your pardon, you will receive your official documentation via U.S. Mail. You will receive a letter signed by the Secretary of the Board of Pardons, as well as charter of pardon with the official Commonwealth seal, signed by the Governor and Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Q: How is this program different from the Expedited Review Program for non-violent marijuana-specific convictions?

The PA Marijuana Pardon Project is specific for those whose criminal history ONLY includes one or both of the following convictions:

- Title 35 Section 780-113 Subsection A31 (Poss. Of Marijuana), and/or
- Title 35 Section 780-113 Subsection A31I (Marijuana-Small Amt Personal Use)

The [Expedited Review Program](#) has a broader scope and edibility includes but is not limited to:

- Possession of a small amount of marijuana for personal use;
- Possession of a small amount of marijuana with the intent to distribute;
- The distribution of a small amount of marijuana but not for sale;
- (Paraphernalia related offenses) - Any marijuana-specific conviction relating to the possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia; the delivery of or possession with intent to deliver or manufacture with intent to deliver drug paraphernalia; or the unlawful advertisement/promotion of sale of drug paraphernalia;
- Criminal conspiracy (relating to an underlying marijuana-specific offense)

Q: How will this effort impact those who have already applied for a pardon? Will this slow down other processes?

This process is a special initiative and will not slow down other pathways for clemency.

Q: I'd like to help share and spread the word; how can I be most helpful?

One of the best ways to share this exciting opportunity is through grassroots networks and social media. Please share the resources on our website with family, friends, consumers, and other interested parties. Also, consider reposting, retweeting, or sharing on social media.

- **Website:**

- [PA Marijuana Pardon Project](#)
- [Board of Pardons](#)
- **Re-share on social media:**
 - **Twitter:**
 - [Governor Tom Wolf](#)
 - [Lt. Governor John Fetterman](#)
 - [PA Board of Pardons](#)
 - **Facebook:**
 - [Governor Tom Wolf](#)
 - [Lt. Governor John Fetterman](#)

If you need further assistance, please email the PA Marijuana Pardon Project resource account at mjpardon@pa.gov. *Please do not call the main Board of Pardons office number for assistance related to the PA Marijuana Pardon Project.*