



STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Terry E. Barnard
Chairman
Brian Owens
Vice-Chairman

2 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE, S.E.
FLOYD BUILDING, BALCONY LEVEL, EAST TOWER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-4909
(404) 656-4661
WWW.PAR.GEORGIA.GOV

James W. Mills
Member
Jacqueline Bunn, Esq.
Member
David Herring
Member

APPLICATION FOR PARDON / RESTORATION OF RIGHTS

I am applying for (check the appropriate line):

- Restoration of Civil and Political Rights (for eligibility requirements, see Page 13, Section 1)
Pardon (for eligibility requirements, see Page 13, Section 2)
Restoration of Right to Receive, Possess or Transport in Commerce a Firearm (for eligibility requirements, see Page 13, Section 3)
Pardon exception (for eligibility requirements, see Page 14, Section 4)

Additional Information:

- *The State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP) cannot pardon federal offenses or offenses that occurred in other states.
*The SBPP cannot expunge (remove from your record) any charges or convictions you have received nor can the SBPP seal your records.
*The right to vote is automatically restored upon completion of sentence(s).
*The SBPP will process your application for Pardon if you have Dead Docket cases on your criminal record.
*The SBPP will not process your application for Firearm Restoration if you have Dead Docket cases on your criminal record.
*If you have Time Expired Restriction cases on your Georgia criminal history (misdemeanor or felony), you will need to obtain dispositions on each before the SBPP can consider your case.
*If you are seeking a pardon for a sex offense and you are still registered on Georgia's Sex Offender Registry, DO NOT apply using this application.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name (as it appears on court documents) Social Security Number

Other names you are known by

Sex (Male or Female) Race Date of Birth Current County of Residence

Street Address City/State Zip Code

Home Telephone Number Cell Phone Number Daytime Phone Number

Email Address Inmate # (if applicable)

SID# (if known) FBI# (if known) ICE# (if known - begins with A)

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Marital status: Never married: _____ Married: _____ Divorced: _____ Widowed: _____ Separated: _____
For each marriage, state the following: (If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)

Name of spouse: _____ Date of marriage: _____

Date/place of divorce: _____

Name of spouse: _____ Date of marriage: _____

Date/place of divorce: _____

If you have minor children, but do not have custody of one or more of them, indicate whether and to whom you pay child support, whether your payments are current, and, if not, the reason for your failure to pay and any agreements you have made to satisfy your payment obligation.

Are there any children under the age of 18 living in your home? Yes: _____ No: _____
If yes, list names and ages. (If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)

Name _____ Age: _____ Relationship to applicant: _____

Name _____ Age: _____ Relationship to applicant: _____

Name _____ Age: _____ Relationship to applicant: _____

Provide the full address of each place you have lived in the past 10 years, beginning with the present and working backwards, along with the dates you lived at each location. List the physical locations. Do not use a post office box as an address. (If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)

_____ From _____ To _____
_____ From _____ To _____
_____ From _____ To _____
_____ From _____ To _____

EDUCATION

Last grade completed: _____

High School Name: _____ City/State: _____ Year of graduation: _____

College and/or Technical School Attendance:

Name of institution: _____

Degree: _____ Date obtained: _____

Name of institution: _____

Degree: _____ Date obtained: _____

Name of institution: _____

Degree: _____ Date obtained: _____

MILITARY SERVICE

Have you ever served in the armed forces of the United States? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, you are required to attach a copy of your DD-214 or some other official document to prove military service.

Date(s) of service: _____ Branch(s): _____

Service Number: _____ Type of Discharge: _____

Decorations (if any): _____

If you were other than Honorably Discharged, describe in detail the factual circumstances surrounding your discharge. *If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.*

EMPLOYMENT

List all periods of employment and unemployment since the conviction or release from incarceration, beginning with the present and working backwards. **(You may attach a current pay stub or W2 to verify your present employment. Please attach proof of disability if receiving disability/SSI)** *If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.*

Name of Current/Last Employer _____

Dates of Employment: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Supervisor's name _____

Reason for leaving (if applicable) _____

Name of Previous Employer _____

Dates of Employment: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Supervisor's name _____

Reason for leaving (if applicable) _____

Name of Previous Employer _____

Dates of Employment: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Supervisor's name _____

Reason for leaving (if applicable) _____

EMPLOYMENT (cont)

Since your incarceration, have you been fired or left a job following allegations of misconduct or unsatisfactory job performance? Yes: _____ No: _____ If yes, please provide an explanation of the circumstances.

If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY

Have you used any illegal drugs or abused prescription drugs or alcohol since the completion of the last sentence for which you seek pardon? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, identify the drug(s) used, the dates of drug or alcohol abuse, and the frequency of such use. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

Have you ever been involved in the illegal manufacture, sale, or distribution of drugs other than the offense(s) for which you seek pardon? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, provide complete details of your involvement. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY (cont)

Have you ever sought or participated in counseling, treatment, or a rehabilitation program for drug use or alcohol use?
Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, identify the date(s) of treatment or counseling and the name of the treatment provider. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

Have you ever consulted with a mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, or counselor), or with another health care provider, concerning a mental health related condition? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, identify the date(s) of treatment or counseling and the name of the treatment provider. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

CIVIL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are you currently in default or delinquent in any way in the payment or discharge of any debt or financial obligation imposed upon you (other than child support obligations as indicated on Page 2)? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, state the amount of the debt, the name of the creditor, the reason for the failure to pay, and the terms of any agreement(s) you have made to satisfy the obligation. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

CIVIL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION (cont)

Have you ever been a party in a civil lawsuit? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, identify the court in which it was filed, the case number, the nature of the dispute and the final disposition. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

Do you have any pending judicial or administrative proceedings with the federal, state or local government?

Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, state the name of the authority involved, the jurisdiction in which the proceeding is pending, the case number, the nature of the proceeding, and the current status of the matter. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

CHARITABLE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Describe any charitable or civic activities in which you have been engaged, or other contributions you have made to the community, since your conviction. In this regard, you may include the names of any organizations in which you have participated, the time periods of your participation, and your role in these activities. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

APPLICANT'S VERSION OF OFFENSE(S)

Provide a complete and detailed account of the offense(s) for which you are seeking a Pardon, Restoration of Firearm Rights and/or Restoration of Civil and Political Rights. You are expected to describe in your own words the relevant factual circumstances of all offense(s) in detail which resulted in conviction. *(If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)*

JUSTIFICATION FOR PARDON CONSIDERATION

Please explain your reasons for applying for a Pardon, Restoration of Firearm Rights and/or Restoration of Civil and Political Rights. Include a summary of how your life and situation or circumstances have changed since your last arrest. Also include the reasons you feel you are a good candidate for Pardon, Restoration of Firearm Rights and/or Restoration of Civil and Political Rights, as well as the circumstances which you feel support such a restoration. If you are applying for an Exception for Pardon (as described on Page 13), please explain IN DETAIL how your conviction is delaying qualification for employment in your chosen profession. (If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets.)

CERTIFICATION AND PERSONAL OATH

On penalty of false swearing, I declare hereby that every statement by me is true and correct. I affirm I have not omitted any requested information. I fully understand any order issued by the Board in reliance on false, inaccurate, or incomplete information will be null and void and of no effect at all. I have not concealed any convictions or unpaid fines or restitution. I understand the Board's decision may not be appealed.

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____, 20____.
(day) (month) (year)

(Signature of applicant)

Subscribed before me:

This _____ day of _____, 20____

Notary Public

Expiration Date of Commission

Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles Waiver to Release Information

I _____, for the purpose of a background investigation being conducted by the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles (SBPP), authorize the release of my employment history to SBPP. I further authorize the release to the SBPP, of any criminal history record information pertaining to me which may be in the files of any jurisdiction whether federal, state, or local criminal justice agency in Georgia. I authorize the release of any and all information described above to any designated representative of the SBPP.

A photocopy of this form may be used in lieu of the original.

Full Name (Printed) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Sex / Race

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Signature _____ Date _____

Subscribed before me:

This _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Notary Public

Expiration Date of Commission

State Board of Pardons and Paroles



WAIVER TO RELEASE INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS BEING CONSIDERED FOR RESTORATION OF FIREARM RIGHTS*

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby authorize and request release of any confidential records and information as may be requested by investigating personnel of the Board of Pardons and Paroles of the State of Georgia.

The confidential records and information covered by this release include, but are not limited to, records maintained by the following agencies: juvenile courts, hospitals and mental health centers, drug or alcohol treatment facilities, and educational institutions. Other records included are military records, employment records, tax and credit records, and medical records maintained by private physicians.

A photo-static copy of this authorization shall be considered as effective and valid as the original.

This _____ Day of _____, _____

Applicant Signature

Subscribed before me:

This _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Notary Public

Expiration Date of Commission

***For completion by applicants applying for Restoration of Firearm Rights ONLY. If you are applying for Pardon and/or Restoration of Civil & Political Rights only, this waiver IS NOT REQUIRED.**

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

- All applicants are required to submit a criminal history obtained within 30 days of submission of completed Pardon application. Most Sheriff's Offices offer this service for a fee. Those applicants residing out of state can contact their local FBI office for a national criminal check.
- To obtain disposition documents, contact the Clerk of Court in the county of conviction.
- If you have Time Expired Restriction cases on your Georgia criminal history (misdemeanor or felony), you will need to obtain dispositions on each before the SBPP can consider your case. Please visit <http://gcicweb.gbi.state.ga.us/content/disposition-recovery-project-overview> for explanation.
- All applications must be submitted with a self-addressed, stamped, 9½" x 4" envelope - no oversized envelopes.
- Except as indicated in Section 4 (immigration), all applicants must submit proof of US citizenship (copy of certified birth certificate, valid US passport, state or federally issued ID, Certificate of Citizenship and/or Naturalization Certificate)

Section 1: Restoration of Civil and Political Rights

This restores a person's civil rights which are lost in Georgia at the time of conviction. These include the right to run for and hold public office, to serve on a jury, and to serve as a Notary Public. The right to vote is automatically restored upon completion of your sentence(s) therefore you need not submit an application.

- You must have completed all sentence(s) within two (2) years prior to applying.
- You must have lived a law-abiding life during the two (2) years prior to applying.

Section 2: Pardon (State of Georgia convictions only):

This is an order of official forgiveness and is granted to those individuals who have maintained a good reputation in their community following the completion of their sentence(s). A pardon is an official statement attached to the criminal record which indicates that the state of Georgia has pardoned the crime. It does not expunge, remove or erase the crime from your record. It may serve as a means for a petitioner to advance in employment or education.

- A pardon will also restore your civil and political rights.
- You must have completed all sentence(s) at least five (5) years prior to applying.
- You must have lived a law-abiding life during the five (5) years prior to applying. This includes any misdemeanor convictions which resulted in a probated sentence.
- You cannot have any pending charges.
- All fines and restitution must be paid in full.
- If you are seeking a pardon for a sex offense AND you are still registered on Georgia's Sex Offender Registry, **DO NOT** apply using this application. Please complete the *Sex Offender Pardon Application* found on the SBPP website. (pap.georgia.gov)
- If you are seeking a pardon for a sex offense for which you were previously required to register on Georgia's Sex Offender Registry but have been removed from the registry, you may use this application. However, you **MUST** provide certified documentation proving the removal.

Section 3: Restoration of Right to Receive, Possess or Transport in Commerce a Firearm

- You must have completed all sentence(s) and lived a law-abiding life for five (5) years thereafter, and otherwise be qualified for a pardon or restoration of civil and political rights.
- All fines and restitution must be paid in full.
- A Restoration of Firearm Rights for out of state offenses will be issued in conjunction with a Restoration of Civil and Political Rights.
- You must submit three (3) letters of reference from citizens (non-family members) of unquestionable integrity. The letters should indicate how long the reference has known you, in what capacity and why the reference feels you are deserving of a Restoration of Firearm Rights. All three (3) letters of reference must contain the reference's address and phone number as an investigator may contact the reference to validate authenticity. All letters should be dated, signed by the reference and notarized.
- A personal face-to-face interview will be required with a SBPP staff member at a location determined by SBPP staff. Photo identification must be provided at the time of the interview. This also includes applicants who reside out of state who will be required to meet with an investigator within the confines of the state of Georgia.

Section 4: Exception for Pardon

Individuals may request a waiver of the two (2) and five (5) year eligibility requirement if the waiting period is shown to delay qualification for employment in one's chosen profession. In addition to the completed Pardon application:

- You must submit three (3) letters of reference from citizens (non-family members) of unquestionable integrity. The letters should indicate how long the reference has known you, in what capacity and why the reference feels you are deserving of an Exception for Pardon. All three (3) letters of reference must contain the reference's address and phone number as an investigator may contact the reference to validate authenticity. All letters should be dated, signed by the reference and notarized.
- Provide documentation from your employer or potential employer which substantiates the need for the Exception for Pardon.

Additionally, some individuals may require a Pardon for misdemeanor conviction. In such instances, you must provide documentation to verify the specific situation.

- Adoption / Custody / Foster Care/ Daycare (copies of court documents)
- Section VIII (8) Housing (application). (Note: Federal law may prohibit some drug offenders and sex offenders from being admitted into public housing.)
- Truck driver into Canada (letter from employer)
- Education (supporting documents)
- Employment (supporting documents)
- Immigration (proof of deportation status and proof of legal, permanent residency)
- Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). For additional information on law enforcement qualifications, please see POST Council Rule number 464-3-02(1)(g) at the following link: <http://www.gapost.org/Rules/3offcrt.html>.

Glossary of Terms

Restoration of Civil and Political Rights – This is an order restoring a person's civil rights which are lost in Georgia upon conviction. These rights include: the right to run for and hold public office, the right to serve on a jury, and the right to serve as a Notary Public. The right to vote is automatically restored upon completion of your sentence(s) therefore you need not submit an application.

Pardon – This is an order of official forgiveness and is granted to those individuals who have maintained a good reputation in their community following the completion of their sentence(s). A Pardon is an official statement attached to the criminal record which affirms that the state of Georgia has pardoned the crime. It does not expunge, remove or erase the crime from your record. It may serve as a means for a petitioner to advance in employment or education.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a restoration of rights and a pardon? Restoration of civil and political rights, if granted, will fully restore citizenship. It removes all civil disabilities and disqualifications imposed as a result of a conviction. These rights include the right to run for and hold public office, to serve on a jury, and to serve as a Notary Public. A pardon is an act of official forgiveness and is granted only in exceptional cases. It may serve as a means for the petitioner to advance in employment or education. A pardon does not expunge (remove) an offense from your record.

Do I need an attorney to apply? No, you do not need an attorney to apply for a Pardon or Restoration of Civil and Political Rights.

Is there a fee to apply? No, there is no application fee.

How long does it take for my application to be processed? The entire process can be lengthy since all information you provide to us must be verified. On average, processing an application takes approximately *six to nine months* and may take longer based on the Board's workload.

What will happen if I cannot obtain my criminal history or dispositions for my convictions? Your application will not be processed without the Georgia criminal history and certified sentence document for any disposition not showing on your record.

When am I eligible to apply for a Pardon? You must have completed all sentence(s) at least five (5) years prior to applying and have lived a law-abiding life since the completion of your sentence(s). You can have no pending charges against you. All fines and restitution must be paid in full. HOWEVER, if you are seeking a Pardon for a sex offense which has required you to be listed on Georgia's Sex Offender Registry, there are additional requirements and you must apply using the Sex Offender Pardon application found on the SBPP's website.

Can I apply for restoration of firearm rights if I have Dead Docket case(s) on my criminal history? No. You need to have all Dead Docket cases disposed of prior to applying for restoration of firearm rights. THIS DOES NOT APPLY IF YOU ARE SEEKING RESTORATION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND/OR PARDON ONLY.

Will my conviction still show on my record? Yes, however, a Pardon or Restoration of Civil and Political Rights will become part of your criminal history record.

How do I get a Record Expungement? This is not a function/duty of the Parole Board. To research details regarding a Record Expungement, go to OCGA Section 35-3-37 for Georgia law requirements.

If I receive a Pardon, and then I am asked by an employer or future employer whether I have been convicted of a crime, do I answer "no" since I received a Pardon? You must answer "yes" to your employer or future employer. Explain that you have received a Pardon and provide a copy of your Pardon paperwork.

What is a Restoration of Civil and Political Rights? A Restoration of Civil and Political Rights is an order restoring the rights which are lost *in Georgia* upon conviction. These include the right to run for and hold public office, to sit on a jury, and to serve as a Notary Public. Restoration of Civil and Political Rights does not automatically include the right to possess, own or carry a firearm; it must be specifically granted by the Board.

When am I eligible to apply for Restoration of Civil and Political Rights? You must have completed all sentence(s) at least two (2) years prior to applying and lived a law-abiding life since the termination of your sentence(s).

Is a Restoration of Civil and Political Rights a separate process from a Restoration of Firearm Rights? Yes, these are different processes. If you would like to have your firearm rights restored, you must check the line on the application for "Restoration of Right to Receive, Possess or Transport in Commerce a Firearm" and meet the applicable requirements. A personal interview will be required for firearm restorations.

Can I bow hunt even if I do not receive a Pardon or Restoration of Civil and Political Rights? Yes, you may bow hunt without a Pardon or Restoration of Civil and Political Rights.

Is a muzzleloader considered a firearm? Yes, a muzzleloader is considered a firearm.

Do I have to apply with the Parole Board to restore my right to vote? No, your right to vote is automatically restored upon termination of your sentence(s). However, you must re-register with your local registrar's office in the county of your residence. To find your local registrar's office, visit this site: http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/register_to_vote

Do I need to apply with the Parole Board to restore my right to sit on a jury? Yes, you must apply for a Restoration of Civil and Political Rights in order to sit on a jury.

Do I need to apply with the Parole Board to restore my right to run for public office? Yes, you must apply for a Restoration of Civil and Political Rights to run for public office.

Do I need to apply with the Parole Board to restore my right to apply for a Notary Public? Yes, you must apply for a Restoration of Civil and Political Rights to apply to be a Notary Public.