



Pardon Project of Lehigh County

Eligibility Criteria

Anyone who has been convicted of a crime under Pennsylvania law can apply for a pardon at any time. The form and instructions are available on the website of the PA Board of Pardons www.bop.pa.gov The Board of Pardons screens candidates before they can be considered by the Governor. From having watched hundreds of pardon hearings, The Pardon Project www.PardonMePA.com has put together a list of factors that a majority of the five members of the Board of Pardons appear to agree on when they decide to recommend someone to the Governor. We have used those factors in outlining who can qualify for free assistance from the Pardon Project of Lehigh County (which is still in formation). Those factors are:

- Residence in or conviction in Lehigh County
- Conviction under Pennsylvania law
- Household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guideline that is (currently): \$27,180/year for an individual, \$55,500/year for a family of 4
- Pardon applicants must have fully completed their period of incarceration and any period of parole or probation at least 5 years ago and must not have any open or pending criminal cases.
- They cannot have been convicted, at any time and in any jurisdiction, for an offense where the conduct of the individual caused or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, or for any sexual offense requiring registration under Pennsylvania's Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act ("SORNA") [42 Pa.C.S. Subchapter H of Chapter 97 in Title 42, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure]]
- Applicants with records of alcohol, mental health or substance abuse problems must demonstrate past and continuing commitment to appropriate treatment programs.

Potential clients will be counseled about the Board of Pardons' policy/procedures requesting payment of, or payment plans for, Legal Financial Obligations (fines, fees, costs, and restitution). These criteria can be changed at any time without notice, and The Pardon Project and all of its volunteers have the right to decline assistance to any individual at any time for any or no reason. It will observe and honor all rights afforded to victims under the Crime Victims Act, 18 P.S. § 11.101 et seq.

~~ Eligibility Criteria as of February 13, 2023 – subject to change