

Pardon Project of Luzerne 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 Luzerne County (which is still in formation). Those factors are:

- Residence in or conviction in Luzerne County
- Conviction under Pennsylvania law
- Preference given to those whose household income at or below 238% of the federal poverty guideline, that is (currently): \$34,700/year for an individual, \$71,400/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]
- An individual with a record that includes alcohol or substance use must have at least three years of sobriety, supported by documentation of successful treatment or other reliable proof if requested

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). Individuals whose household family income exceeds 238% of the federal poverty line will have to pay their own court costs.

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.