

Nevada Board of Pardons Commissioners

Information about

Applying for a Pardon Electronically

(Revised April 6, 2015)

Any person who has committed a crime under the laws of the State of Nevada and is no longer serving the sentence imposed may apply to the Pardons Board for consideration to receive a Pardon and/or the restoration of their civil rights. There is no right afforded to any person of being granted a hearing or to receive any favorable action by the Pardons Board. The Pardons Board in Nevada consists of the Governor, the Attorney General and the Justices of the Supreme Court.

Offenders who have completed their sentence may apply for a pardon through the Executive Secretary of the Pardons Board. Applications by parolees who desire a commutation of sentence will be rejected. NRS 176.033 provides the avenue for parolees to request an early termination from parole. The power to grant a pardon or restore the rights of an offender does not extend to crimes committed under federal law or the laws of any other state.

An application for a pardon will generally not be considered unless a significant period of time has passed since the applicant's final discharge under the sentence. During this period, the applicant is expected to demonstrate complete and total rehabilitation.

Legal Effects of a Pardon in Nevada

One of the primary misconceptions about pardons in Nevada is that a pardon is the only manner by which one may have one's rights restored. In some states a pardon is the only manner by which a convicted felon may have his or her civil rights restored. However, in Nevada, some rights are restored upon the completion of a sentence or period of parole or probation (see NRS 176A.850, 213.155 & 213.157).

Another misconception is that a pardon erases the conviction from the record. A pardon does not eliminate or erase the conviction. The records of conviction continue to exist in both court and law enforcement files.

The Right to Own and Possess Firearms

Convicted felons are prohibited from having firearms pursuant to NRS 202.360. The Pardons Board is the only body that can restore this right.

Effect of a Pardon on Occupational Licenses

With regard to occupational licensing, where a statute limits rights based on the underlying conduct and not the pardoned offense itself, a pardon would not remove or erase the disability of past conduct. If there is a requirement that the license applicant has not been convicted of a felony, the pardon would permit licensing. However, if the licensing standard is good moral character, the pardon does not erase the moral guilt associated with the commission of a criminal offense and the fact giving rise to that conviction may be considered in determining whether that person is of "good moral character."

What a Pardon Does:

- A Pardon forgives but does not forget.
- A Pardon is the only instrument available to restore one's right to bear arms in Nevada.
- An unconditional pardon removes all disabilities resulting from conviction thereof.

A Pardon Does NOT:

- A Pardon does not overturn a judgment of conviction.
- A Pardon does not erase or obliterate the fact that one was once convicted of a crime.
- A Pardon does not substitute a good reputation for one that is bad.
- A Pardon does not relieve a convicted sex offender of the requirement to register as such.
- A Pardon does not attest to rehabilitation of a person.
- A Pardon does not remove any disabilities resulting from separate convictions that are not specified on the instrument of Pardon (ie, being pardoned on one offense but not another would not remove disabilities from the offense not pardoned).
- The Nevada Pardons Board does not have the authority to restore any rights lost as a result of a conviction in a jurisdiction outside of Nevada.

Attached to this letter is a Pardons Board application. Please fill out the application and the waiver (which needs to be notarized) and submit it on line, or return it to the address below.

Board of Pardons Commissioners
1677 Old Hot Springs Rd., Suite A
Carson City, NV 89706

Please note that the Pardons Board receives hundreds of applications for pardons and only a limited number of those applications will be accepted for review and consideration by the Pardons Board. If your application is accepted for review, a complete background investigation will be conducted and a report will be issued to the Pardons Board detailing all of your criminal history, financial responsibility, character and any other information deemed relevant. Pursuant to NRS 179.301 the Pardons Board may inquire into and inspect any sealed criminal records if the person who is the subject of the records has applied for a pardon from the Board.

In the event the investigation reveals negative information that was not disclosed on your application, further consideration may be rejected. If you currently reside out of state, the applicable Parole or Probation department may conduct the investigation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (775) 687-5049.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete the following application as completely and accurately as possible. Applications that are incomplete or have missing information may be rejected. It is especially important to provide accurate details of convictions. Referencing a statute or indicating probation violation, etc., instead of the actual name of the conviction will result in the rejection of the application.

When indicating the type of pardon requested (Unconditional including the right to bear arms, or a Pardon excluding the right to bear arms), unless there is a specific reason for requesting a Pardon that excludes the right to bear arms, you should request an Unconditional Pardon.

If you file electronically, you are still responsible for (1) getting the Waiver and Liability Release form notarized and delivering it to our Carson City office along with the Certification and Confirmation of Digital Signature page within seven (7) days, or your application will be considered incomplete.