



PARDON PROJECT OF BERKS COUNTY

Eligibility Requirements and Guidelines

- FREE support is available to individuals seeking pardons from past criminal convictions provided the following eligibility criteria are met:
- Individuals must reside in Berks County, or have a Berks County conviction which is the subject of the pardon request.
- Pardon applicants must have fully completed their period of incarceration and any period of parole or probation.
- Applicants must have paid in full all Court ordered restitution. Full payment of all fines, fees and Court costs is preferred but applicants' repayment status will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Any conviction, *at any time, in any jurisdiction*, of a sex crime will render a pardon applicant ineligible for Pardon Project volunteer assistance.
- Applicants must not have any open and pending criminal cases.
- Applicants with records of alcohol, mental health or substance abuse problems must demonstrate past and continuing commitment to appropriate treatment programs.

The Pardon Project of Berks County suggests the following guidelines which may increase the likelihood of success in obtaining a pardon:

- Each Applicant should be able to demonstrate that they have been a positive force in the community, demonstrated by education, employment history, volunteer efforts, etc.
- A period of time should have elapsed after completion of incarceration, probation or parole before seeking a pardon. Longer time periods (years), especially for more serious offenses, increase chances of success.

The Pardon Project and all of its volunteers reserve the right to decline assistance to any pardon applicant. The Pardon Project reserves the right to amend its eligibility criteria at any time.