

IS YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD HOLDING YOU BACK?
HAVE YOU TURNED YOUR LIFE AROUND?



Pardon Project of Berks County

WHAT IS A PARDON?

A pardon is an act by the Governor forgiving you for the crime you committed and leads to having your conviction erased from your criminal record. After a pardon, you don't have to "check the box" when filling out an application, nor do you have to tell anyone that you were ever convicted. The application for a pardon is free, a lawyer is not necessary, and over 80% of the people going before the PA Board of Pardons are granted a pardon!

Why are pardons important?

People change, records don't! Pardons give people who have changed their lives the opportunity to stop being defined by their worst mistakes. Pardons restore the rights and privileges that were lost as a result of a conviction. Not only do they open the door to greater employment and educational opportunities and increased housing options, but they also can have a positive economic impact on the community.

Over a ten-year period, pardons brought over \$16.5 million in higher wages to Pennsylvania communities!

Eligibility:

- Cannot have a conviction of a sex crime
- Must reside in or have a conviction in Berks County
- At least 2 years have passed since the completion of the sentence (including probation and parole)
- Cannot have any open criminal cases
- Must have all restitution paid in full and be active with a payment plan if there are outstanding fines and court costs

What is the Pardon Project?

The main goal of the **Pardon Project of Berks County** is to assist individuals with a criminal record who have served their sentence and are seeking a pardon of their records. The **Pardon Project** connects eligible applicants with trained volunteer Pardon Coaches to assist them in completing the pardon application and aid them in their journey.

The **Pardon Project** offers individuals a life-changing opportunity to finally break free from their past mistakes and live their lives according to their current potential. Connections Work is thrilled to coordinate the efforts of the **Pardon Project of Berks County** and serve as the official Pardon Hub for Berks County.

Where can I learn more?

ConnectionsWork.org/Pardon-Project

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"Mistakes made long ago shouldn't follow you for the rest of your life."

– PA State Senator Judy Schwank