

State Clemency Resources


Which form(s) of clemency does the state offer?

- Pardon
- Commutation of sentence
- Remission of fine

Decisionmaker

People must complete the application and submit it to the State Parole Board, the Board then sends the application to the Governor for the final decision. The Governor may refer applications for pardon to the New Jersey State Parole Board for investigation and recommendation, N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:167-7, but the Board's recommendation is not binding on the Governor.

Resources:

 law.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/New%20Jersey%20Reprieve.pdf

Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:**
N.J.S.A. Const. Art. 5, § 2, ¶ 1
- **Statutory Authority:**
Governor's power to grant reprieves is plenary and unreviewable. N.J. Prac. Criminal Practice and Procedure § 49:3.

Eligibility Criteria

There are no limitations on who may apply for a pardon or other relief through this process. However, the Governor may grant pardons and reprieves in all cases other than impeachment and treason.

Application Process

The pardon powers set forth in the Constitution of 1947 do not require any specialized process at all for executive consideration of pardons. The governor's pardon and reprieve authority is plenary and unreviewable. However, there is an administrative process whereby applications for pardons, reprieves, commutations of sentence and remission of fines can be considered administratively by the governor's office. This task has been assigned to the Clemency Unit of the State Parole Board. This body will conduct investigations into clemency applications and make recommendations to the governor and governor's counsel. There are no limitations on who may apply for a pardon or other relief through this process. If you are confined in a correctional facility, this form must be completed and forwarded to the Administrator of the correctional facility where you are confined. In all other cases the completed petition should be mailed to:

New Jersey State Parole Board
Attn: Clemency Unit
P.O. Box 862
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

APPLICATION LINKS

 state.nj.us/parole/docs/executiveClemencyApplication.pdf