

How to Get a Registered Sex Offender Pardon in Georgia

A pardon in Georgia is “an order of official forgiveness granted to those individuals who have maintained a good reputation in their community following the completion of their sentence(s).” Pardons are generally for felony convictions, but misdemeanors can be pardoned if certain criteria are met. Pardons are granted by the Georgia State Board of Pardons & Paroles and may be helpful for advancement in employment, housing, or education. Most pardoned offenses are now eligible for restriction and sealing (expungement). Certain serious violent felonies and sex offenses are not eligible even if you receive a pardon. Please note: a pardon or expungement is not required in order to vote. If your sentence is complete, your right to vote is automatically restored and you just have to re-register. See GJP.org/voting for more information

Eligibility

- You were convicted of an offense in Georgia that required registration as a sex offender;
- You completed all sentences that required registration at least ten (10) years before applying (this means that you have been off parole or probation for ten years);
- You have lived a law-abiding life in the last ten (10) years;
- You do not have any pending charges (NOTE: the Board requires that all cases appearing as a dead docket be dismissed prior to submitting an application. A dead docket is an inactive pending case);
- All of your fines or restitution are paid.

Process

1. Create an online account with the State Board of Pardons & Paroles. You can register for an account at <https://pap.georgia.gov/parole-consideration/pardons-restoration-rights>. (NOTE: The Board no longer accepts paper applications.)
2. Within 90 days of your application you must have a psychosexual evaluation. See the Board of Pardons and Paroles website for a list of approved providers. You must pay for this evaluation.
3. Within 90 days of your application you must have a disclosure polygraph. See the State Board website for a list of approved examiners. You must pay for this examination.
4. Attach a copy of your most recent risk level evaluation by the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board.
5. Get your official GCIC criminal history record from a law enforcement agency for a fee.
6. Review your GCIC criminal history record and see if any final dispositions are missing. (NOTE: A final disposition is the result of your charges.)
7. Get certified copies of any missing dispositions for felony or misdemeanor arrests. (NOTE: a certified copy is available for a small fee at the office of the clerk of the court that handled the case, and it will have a raised seal on it.)
8. Once you have completed the application, review your responses and scan/upload any other required materials. Print, sign in front of notary and upload the required waiver documents.
9. Wait approximately nine (9) to twelve (12) months for a response. The Board will contact you before their final decision to schedule an interview in person at your home.
10. If granted, wait thirty (30) days and obtain a new GCIC criminal history record to make sure your record shows you have been pardoned of the offense(s).
11. If you are denied, you need to wait two years and try again. There is no appeal process.

Required Documentation

1. Completion of the online application, which can be found on the website for the State Board of Pardon & Paroles at <https://pap.georgia.gov/parole-consideration/pardons-restoration-rights>.
2. Veterans who were not Honorably Discharged need to attach a DD-214.
3. A current paystub or W-2 if you are employed and do not want your present employer contacted.
4. Certified copies of required missing dispositions.
5. A copy of your GCIC criminal history record that is less than thirty (30) days old.

6. A psychosexual evaluation conducted within 90 days of your application date.
7. Polygraph examination results conducted within 90 days of your application date.
8. A current copy of your most recent risk level evaluation by the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board.

Optional Documentation for Sex Offender Pardon

You don't want to overwhelm the Board with too much information, but may want to upload one or more of the following:

1. Personal/Cover letter - Explain briefly why a pardon is important to you and why you think you deserve one. The application requires you to describe your history in detail including any drug and mental health treatment, your version of the incidents where you were convicted, your charitable and volunteer activities, and why you think you deserve a pardon, so this letter should just be a quick summary.
2. Letter(s) of recommendation from people who know you (such as community leaders, employers, or counselors who can vouch for your good character).
3. Resume, transcripts, certificates, awards and any other documentation of educational, training, drug treatment or other programs you have completed that have helped you improve yourself.

Sample personal statement/cover letter	Sample letter of recommendation
Date State Board of Pardons and Paroles 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E. Balcony Level, East Tower Atlanta, GA 30334-4909 Dear State Board of Pardons and Paroles: My name is XXXX and I am requesting a pardon due to the progress I have made in my life. I realize that I made some bad choices in my life, but I have worked hard to ... (take responsibility for your actions and talk about how you have moved on). The convictions on my criminal history occurred more than ten years ago when I was battling alcoholism and addiction. I have been sober for 6 years and currently attend a 12-step program (speak to your personal circumstances and story). It has been very hard for me to find a job (or housing, whatever your situation is) with my record, and I hope a pardon will help. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, XXXX	Date State Board of Pardons and Paroles 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E. Balcony Level, East Tower Atlanta, GA 30334-4909 Dear State Board of Pardons and Paroles: I am writing in support of Ms. XXXX's application for a pardon. I have known her for X years. I was Ms. XXXX's manager when we worked together at the XXXX Company (state how you personally know the applicant). I have had the opportunity to talk to Ms. XXXX about the mistakes she made in the past and she has demonstrated that she has changed (write what you know and feel about the applicant). Ms. XXXX was a responsible employee. She was never late; was polite to customers; and worked hard (write about what you observed). Unfortunately, Ms. XXXX was laid off recently and is having trouble finding a new job. I hope the Board will consider granting her a pardon to improve her chances. Sincerely, XXXX