Navigating the Pardon Process

A **RECORD ERASER** GUIDE TO PENNSYLVANIA PARDONS

STEP #1

Record Research + Determination

What Happens: Understanding what's on your record is the first step in determining whether you qualify for a pardon. Knowing the details of your convictions helps ensure you apply at the right time.



STEP #2

Application Preparation + Submission

What Happens: A strong, well-organized application is essential to moving forward in the pardon process. This includes gathering court records, writing personal statements, and providing accurate details.

STEP #3

Application Monitoring + Present Status Interview

What Happens: The pardon process takes years, and staying responsive and up-to-date with the Board of Pardons is crucial. They may request additional information or updates before making a decision. At some point, a representative from Department of Corrections will contact you for an interview and ask general questions and gain insight on your personal status. If your case qualifies as expedited by the Board, you will receive an Expedited Review Questionnaire instead. Please note that this is not the same as a public hearing session.



STEP #4

Merit Review + Public Hearing Session

What Happens: After reviewing your application and the information from your Present Status Interview, the Board publicly votes on whether your case should move forward to a Public Hearing. Your application must receive at least 2 of the 5 Board members' votes to advance.

During your Public Hearing Session, Board members may ask questions about your background, rehabilitation, and why you're seeking a pardon. Once the hearing concludes, the Board votes on whether to recommend your application.



STEP #5

Governor's Finals Decision

What Happens: If a majority of the Board votes in favor of your case, it is sent to the Governor for final review. The Governor has full discretion to approve or deny the recommendation, and if granted, the pardon results in an automatic expungement of the record.



FREE

Record Evaluation
Attorney Consultation

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