

# Georgia Pardon and Restoration Process: A Comprehensive Report



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At Georgia Gun Lawyers, our practice focuses on assisting individuals in navigating the Georgia pardon and restoration processes to reclaim rights lost due to a criminal conviction. The Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles oversees three primary avenues: pardons, restoration of civil and political rights, and restoration of firearm rights. These processes provide pathways to forgiveness and reinstatement of rights for those who have completed their sentences and shown rehabilitation. This report outlines the eligibility criteria, application procedures, and timelines for each avenue, based on information from the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles.

## Understanding the Georgia Pardon and Restoration Processes

A criminal conviction in Georgia can result in the loss of rights, affecting employment, civic participation, and personal freedoms. The Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles offers mechanisms to restore these rights through pardons and specific restorations. A pardon provides official forgiveness without erasing the conviction, while restorations target specific rights like civic participation or firearm possession. Eligibility typically requires completion of all sentences, a law-abiding life post-conviction, no pending charges, and payment of all fines. Applications are submitted electronically, followed by investigations and, in some cases, interviews, with processing typically taking 6-9 months. No fees are required, and while an attorney is not mandatory, professional guidance can improve outcomes. Georgia Gun Lawyers provides tailored support to ensure compliance and effective advocacy.

## Pathways for Pardon and Rights Restoration in Georgia

### 1. Georgia Pardon Process

A pardon in Georgia is an act of executive clemency that grants forgiveness for a conviction, often aiding in employment or education opportunities. It does not expunge the record but is noted on your criminal history as evidence of rehabilitation.

#### Eligibility Criteria for a Georgia Pardon:

- Completion of all sentences (including probation and fines) at least 5 years prior (10 years for sex offenses requiring registry).
- Law-abiding life during the waiting period.
- No pending charges; all fines paid.
- For sex offenders: Psychosexual evaluation, polygraph, and SORRB risk level within 90 days.

#### Application Process:

- Submit electronically via the Board's portal (effective 2024).
- Include recent criminal history, court dispositions, and personal statement.
- Face-to-face interview required.
- For sex offenders: Upload evaluations and polygraph results.

Timelines and Differences: Processing takes approximately 6-9 months, though this is a general time statement. A pardon differs from restorations by offering official forgiveness for qualifying convictions. Georgia cannot pardon for out-of-state convictions.

## 2. Restoration of Civil and Political Rights in Georgia

Restoration of civil and political rights reinstates privileges lost due to a conviction, such as serving on a jury, holding public office, or becoming a notary public. Voting rights are automatically restored upon sentence completion, requiring no application. *Please note: a restoration of civil and political rights can restore firearm rights for out-of-state prohibiting convictions, but it does not restore firearm rights for Georgia prohibiting convictions.*

Eligibility Criteria:

- Completion of sentences at least 2 years prior.
- Law-abiding life since completion.
- Residency in Georgia; no pending charges.

Application Process:

- Electronic submission with criminal history and dispositions.
- No interview required.
- Address unresolved cases, such as Dead Dockets.

Timelines and Differences: Processing takes 6-9 months. Unlike pardons, this focuses solely on civil participation rights and does not include firearm rights.

## 3. Restoration of Firearm Rights in Georgia

Restoration of firearm rights allows individuals to receive, possess, or transport firearms post-conviction, supporting Second Amendment privileges. It does not apply to federal convictions or dishonorable military discharges.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Completion of sentences at least 5 years prior (10 years for sex offenders).
- No "criminal involvement" in the previous five years.
- Law-abiding life; no pending charges.
- Not available for certain federal or military disqualifiers.

Application Process:

- Check specific option on the application form.
- Include three notarized reference letters from non-family members.
- Mandatory face-to-face interview.
- Issued alongside a pardon for Georgia convictions or civil rights restoration for out-of-state convictions.

**Timelines and Differences:** Processing takes 6-9 months. It requires additional documentation and an interview compared to civil rights restoration and is distinct from automatic voting rights restoration.

#### Why Choose Georgia Gun Lawyers for Pardon and Restoration Assistance?

With extensive experience in Georgia criminal law and Second Amendment matters, Georgia Gun Lawyers excels in guiding clients through pardon applications, civil rights restorations, and firearm rights processes. We offer free consultations to evaluate eligibility, tailored strategies for electronic applications and Board interactions, assistance with gathering evaluations and references, and a commitment to confidentiality and successful outcomes.

For those seeking a Georgia pardon, civil rights restoration, or firearm rights restoration, contact Georgia Gun Lawyers to navigate these processes effectively and reclaim your rights.