

Pardon Me?

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Many People make regrettable mistakes, and often times these mistakes will include becoming involved in a situation that results in acquiring criminal record.

What is a Pardon?

A pardon removes the stigma of having a criminal conviction. Once you have a pardon, your criminal record is not erased, but your criminal record must be kept separate from other criminal records. Only the Solicitor General of Canada can agree that the information about your conviction is to be given out after you have a pardon. A pardon will include any offences from your military record. A pardon will not cancel Prohibition Orders that forbid you to drive or have firearms. A pardon will not remove you from any sexual offender or child abuse registries.

What is the Process?

- A. Get an application from any NAPS detachment or NAN Legal Services.
- B. Get your RCMP record check and fingerprints.
- C. Get proof of your convictions from the arresting police force or from the court where the case was heard.
- D. Get a local police records check from every place of residency within the previous five years.
- E. And finally, make sure that all required information is within your application, pay the appropriate fee and wait up to eighteen months for a response in the mail.

Who can apply for Pardon?

Anyone who has a criminal conviction in Canada that is at least three to five years old can and should make application for a pardon. In the case of a summary conviction offence the waiting period is three years and for an indictable offence the waiting period is five years.

Other Considerations

A withdrawal, or a stay of criminal charges, or a discharge does create a criminal record not useable for sentencing purposes, but is part of a criminal record nonetheless. To get rid of those records an application under **The Criminal Identifications Act** is sufficient. In those cases, once conditions are met or the passage of year has lapsed apply through a local police force to destroy these records.