

## **CLEMENCY (COMMUTATIONS & PARDONS) FAQ**

### **Is there a deadline to submit a clemency application before Governor Newsom's term ends in January 2027?**

While there is no formal deadline to submit a clemency application, you may wish to consider factors that impact the timeline of the Governor's clemency review. These include the clemency application investigation process and, in cases where the applicant has sustained more than one prior felony conviction, the process to get the required approval from the Board of Parole Hearings and the Supreme Court. These processes can take many months.

### **What will be the status of my application after Governor Newsom leaves office? Will I need to submit a new application to the next Governor?**

Each Governor sets their own policy for reviewing clemency applications.

### **How do I find out the status of my clemency application?**

Governor Newsom's Office will only contact a clemency applicant if action is taken on their case or if additional information is required. You should not need to submit multiple applications.

### **Do I need a log number?**

For commutations, we do not use log numbers to track applications.

For pardons, if you have your log number, it is helpful to include in all correspondence about your application.

### **Can I talk to someone in Governor Newsom's Office about my case?**

Please contact our office only if your contact information changes or if there have been significant changes in your case since you applied.

Please send that new information via email:

For commutation applications: [commutations@gov.ca.gov](mailto:commutations@gov.ca.gov)

For pardon applications: [pardons@gov.ca.gov](mailto:pardons@gov.ca.gov)

### **Governor Newsom has granted clemency in cases similar to mine-- why hasn't he granted my application?**

Governors have historically granted clemency to only a very small number of the people who apply. There are numerous factors that Governor Newsom weighs when making clemency decisions, and no two cases are the same.

**Do I need to hire a lawyer to help me with my clemency application?**

You do not need a lawyer to help you apply.

For general information on the application process, visit

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/clemency/>

For information on applying without an attorney, visit [selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/](https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/);

<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/clean-your-record/commutations>

For information on finding legal assistance: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/getting-legal-help>

For information on the impact of your pardon and other record cleaning remedies

<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/clean-your-record/pardons>