



The Office of the President

The Legal Bureau

Special Clemency Policy on the 75th Anniversary of the State of Israel

Celebrating the State of Israel's 75 years of independence, President Isaac Herzog, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Justice MK Gideon Sa'ar have declared a special clemency policy.

Under this policy, the use of power to grant clemency will be broader than customary. Special consideration will be given to personal and family circumstances and rehabilitation of clemency applicants aged 75 and over, youth sentenced for criminal offenses as minors and have remained on the right track, disabled IDF and security forces, and those who have made a unique contribution to the security of the nation.

Pardons will be granted only after submitting a request for clemency and assessing each case's merits after obtaining recommendations from all relevant authorities.

Specifications of the special clemency policy on the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel:

Clemency applicants over 75:

Among this population, there are those who partook in establishing the State of Israel. Some have strayed, been convicted of criminal offenses, labeled as a criminal, and have been carrying the burden of a criminal record. As part of the special policy, exceptional consideration will be given to personal and family circumstances and rehabilitation for clemency applicants over 75.

Disabled IDF veterans and security forces and those who have made a unique contribution to the security of the State of Israel:

Since its establishment, the State of Israel has been fighting for its existence, facing numerous security challenges that threaten to harm the nation and the country. For the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel, the President of the State wishes to express Israel's appreciation for those who served with body and soul to protect the country and those who made a unique contribution to its safety. In assessing requests for clemency, a lenient course will be instituted concerning clemency requests by disabled IDF soldiers and defense entities, including those shell-shocked suffering post-traumatic stress.

Youth clemency applicants – the future generation:

Special consideration will be provided to personal and family circumstances and rehabilitation of adults – youth who committed criminal offenses as minors, made amends, got on the right track, and are leading a positive lifestyle contributing to society. The process aims to strengthen youth who have undergone rehabilitation and have amended their conduct to remove barriers to their growth, enabling them to assimilate and prosper in the workforce, integrate, and contribute to society.

- Each application will be assessed on its merit: the number and severity of offenses, the imposed sentence, the passage of time, personal circumstances, and rehabilitation. The procedure will be implemented as is customary with clemency requests.

Timetable

The special policy will apply to clemency applications submitted by the end of Israel's 75th anniversary (5th of Eyar 5784, May 13, 2024).

Important to Note

- Due to the necessity of obtaining information for the clemency request and recommendations from the relevant authorities, the clemency request process takes time.
- As customary, the President will consider a clemency request only after all legal proceedings in the case of the subject have been concluded.
- The following requests do not fall within the purview of the President: a request to expunge an internal police record, clemency relating to sanctions imposed by a military court under the Order Regarding Security Provisions [consolidated version] (Judea and Samaria) (No. 1651), 5770-2009. The list is not exhaustive.
- According to the Rights of Victims of Crime Law, 5761-2001, victims of violence or sexual abuse, as well as victims of offenses causing death by negligence and a hit-and-run traffic accident, are provided an opportunity to state their stance in writing, before the President of the State has decided on a request for clemency. The written stance can be submitted to the Pardons Department of the Ministry of Justice. Additional information can be obtained at the following link: <http://www.justice.gov.il/units/pardons/Pages/default.aspx>

Guide to Apply for the Clemency under the Special Policy for Israel's 75th Anniversary

- Where and how to send the request

The request for clemency must be sent to the President of the State in one of the following:

- (1) Online form:
<https://forms.gov.il/globaldata/getsequence/getHtmlForm.aspx?formtype=HNI1@justice.gov.il>
- (2) Email: Haninot@president.gov.il
- (3) Mail: 2 Hanasi St., Jerusalem 2341104
- (4) Fax: 02-5887227

Attorneys are requested to submit the application using the online form only.

- Who may apply for clemency?

Requests for clemency must be submitted by the subject or representative or via a first-degree relative (applications submitted by another party will not be processed). If a first-degree relative submits the request for clemency, the applicant shall indicate in writing that the request is submitted with the subject's knowledge and consent. If the request for clemency is submitted by the subject's representative, power of attorney must be included with the application.

- What should the clemency request include?
The easiest and best way to apply is by completing the online form, which includes specific instructions on the required information and documents suggested to include with the clemency request.

The request submitted in other manners (email, mail, fax) must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Personal Information (full name, father's name, ID no., address, phone no., email).
- Details regarding the offense and court decisions.
- The date of commencement of the sentence for which the pardon is sought (in applications relating to imprisonment).
- The grounds for the request, such as the circumstances of committing the offense, special personal and family circumstances and new circumstances since the sentencing, treatment and rehabilitation, and medical, social, or financial grounds.
- Any document that substantiates the applicant's claim.

The guide to submitting clemency applications can be viewed on the Office of the President's website:

<http://www.president.gov.il/About/Departments/Pages/AmnestyApplications.aspx>

For inquiries, please contact the Legal Bureau at the Office of the President on Sunday-Thursday, 9:00-11:00 at 02-6707211.

If any of the above is written in a specific gender, it is for convenience only and relates to all genders equally.