



**Pardons Department
Ministry of Justice**



**בֵּית הַנְּשִׂיא
رَبْوَان الرئیس
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Special Clemency Program – Reduced Fines – Operation Iron Swords

Since its inception, the State of Israel has been fighting for its existence and incessantly coping with numerous security challenges threatening the country and nation. Since the outbreak of Operation Iron Swords on October 7th, 2023, Israel's citizens have been engaged in a war that is taking its toll on the battlefield and the home front. Hostilities, fighting, and the defense minister's declaration of a state of emergency in Israel have had various consequences for the overall Israeli economy, and many of Israel's residents are currently facing employment and livelihood hardships.

Therefore, the President and Minister of Justice are implementing a special clemency program for those who have incurred fines, are enduring financial hardship due to the war, and cannot pay their debts during this challenging crisis. These are unique groups – reservists, members of the security forces, evacuees, and those whose homes were damaged, families of abductees who died on the battlefield or were murdered, and who were directly harmed by the state of war. As part of the program, employing the power to grant clemency concerning the reduction of fines will be broader than customary, taking into account the following criteria:

Relief of Fines Clemency Program - General – Operation Iron Swords

As part of the program, employing the power to grant clemency concerning reducing fines will be broader than customary, and special consideration will be given to debtors' financial hardship due to the war.

Granting clemency will be considered if the following criteria are met:

- A. The applicant is a fighter in regular service, was drafted in Operation Iron Swords for significant reserve service, or has made a considerable contribution to the state's security.
- B. The applicant is applying on behalf of someone who died on the battlefield or murdered during hostile actions or acts of war that occurred from 22 in Tishrei 5784, October 7th, 2023, and until the end of the validity period of the declaration of a special situation on the home front or until the end of significant military operations, whichever is later. Or the applicant is a first-degree relative of an individual who died on the battlefield or was murdered, as stated above.
- C. The applicant is applying on behalf of an abductee or missing person in accordance with the Compensation Law for Family Members of Missing or Abducted in Hostilities or War, 5774 - 2023. Or the applicant is a first-degree relative of an abductee or missing person or a person who was abducted or missing and returned to Israel.
- D. The applicant resided before the commencement of the war in a locality that was evacuated, who is listed in the addendum to the Law on Postponement of Deadlines (Temporary Provisions – Iron Swords (Contract,



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Verdicts or Payment to the Authority), 5774-2023, or a person who vacated their home that was damaged due to the war.

E. The fines were imposed due to criminal, traffic, or administrative proceedings.

Additional considerations that will be assessed during the procedure:

- A. The applicant had not been convicted of an offense in the five years preceding the application.
- B. The applicant requested to settle the debt in the two years preceding the submission of the application.
- C. The applicant has not incurred debt to pay compensation to the victims of the offense, determined in the subject's case or another case.

Relief of Fines Clemency Program – Planning and Construction – Operation Iron Swords

This program is an expression of the President and Minister of Justice's appreciation for those who serve the country, risk their lives defending Israel, those who make or have made a unique contribution to its security, and those who lost loved ones in this dire war. In the unique context of planning and construction, emphasis will be placed on the hardship of paying fines imposed on those who have built residential homes in localities with a significant planning challenge. The program expresses gratitude to all those serving in the IDF and security forces; this is implemented by examining leniency in fines in relevant instances. The program was formulated following the President's visits to bereaved families in the Druze community, the Druze community's spiritual leader's appeal, and similar requests from the Minister of Justice. These requests addressed the communities' young fighters' hardships in the war while coping with paying heavy fines.

Granting clemency or reducing fines for planning and construction will be assessed if the following cumulative criteria are met:

- A. The applicant is a fighter in regular or reserve service in Operation Iron Swords or has made a significant contribution to the security of the country or is a first-degree relative (residing with the applicant) of a fighter or of someone who has made a significant contribution to the security of the country, or an IDF soldier or a member of the security forces who died on the battlefield.
- B. The fine was imposed on the fighter or first-degree relative concerning property used for residential purposes (and not for other uses such as commercial or industry), provided that the residence was intended for the fighter (or a person who made a significant contribution to state security) or a first-degree relative residing with the fighter. The application will be accompanied by supporting documentation substantiating that the construction related to the fine was for the residential intent.
- C. This is a locality/area with significant difficulties in planning regulation, which constituted an obstacle for the applicant in regulating construction.

Additional considerations that will be assessed in the application:

- A. The applicant had not been convicted of a criminal offense in the five years preceding the application.
- B. The property was not built on national or public infrastructure or in a manner that would impede a public need.



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It should be noted that relief for fines within the program is subject to submitting an individual request and considering each case's merits after obtaining a recommendation from relevant authorities. Concerning each request, the specified criteria, the severity, and circumstances of the offenses, other components of the penalty imposed in addition to the fines, the amount of the fines, the number of fines' portfolios that the applicant has, attempts to pay the fines, the ability to pay, etc., will be assessed, as customary in clemency requests of this nature. In addition, it should be noted that the special program does not preclude the submission of requests for clemency other than this program concerning the President of the State's authority to grant clemency in accordance with customary rules. Inter alia, an individual with financial hardship can apply per the existing customary rules for the relief of fines.

The application must be submitted to the President of the State via the online form on the President of the State's website.

<https://forms.gov.il/globaldata/getsequence/getHtmlForm.aspx?formtype=HNI1@justi ce.gov.il>

The clemency request must be accompanied by details and documents substantiating the reasons for the request, including personal information, personal circumstances, details of the fines for which the request is submitted, including the debt collection entity, efforts to settle the debts, as well as documents attesting to the applicant's financial situation, including, inter alia, a current checking account statement for the three months preceding the application submission date, supporting documentation concerning active debts (writ of execution, loans, etc.), and supporting documentation concerning annuities.

For further information, please refer to the Office of the President's website at:

<https://www.president.gov.il/clemency>

The Ministry of Justice Pardons Department's website:

<https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry of justice pardons/govil-landing-page>

For further inquiries, please contact the Legal Bureau at the Office of the President on Sundays through Thursdays, between 09:00-11:00 at 02-6707211, as well as with the secretariat of the Pardons Department at the Ministry of Justice on Sundays through Thursdays between 09:00-11:00 and 13:00-15:00 at 073-3927070.