



Special Petition for Submitting Requests to Expunge Criminal Records Due to Legislation or Use of Cannabis for Personal Consumption Only

On the 25th of Adar b 5779 (April 1st, 2019), the Dangerous Drugs Law (Special Fine Offense – Temporary Order), 5778-2018 (hereinafter: The Temporary Order) came into effect. The temporary order states¹ that a first-time offense of possession or use of cannabis for personal consumption and an additional offense committed within five years from the date of the first offense will be considered an offense incurring a fine (NIS 1,000 and NIS 2,000, respectively).

Recently, on February 9th, 2022, a memorandum of regulations and an order – for administrative offenses (possession and use of cannabis) was published. It proposed to establish the offense of using and possessing cannabis for personal consumption as an administrative offense without a criminal record.

As a complementary measure and aiming to eradicate the criminal label and stigma from those who have violated the law or used cannabis for personal consumption, President Isaac Herzog, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister of Justice Gideon Saar are issuing a special petition to those who were tried in court in the past for offenses relating to legislation or use of cannabis for personal consumption and were not tried for additional offenses - to submit requests to expunge criminal records, as detailed below.

It should be noted that the applications will be considered on their merits, on an individual basis, considering the aforementioned changes in policy and legislation.

Who is the petition for?

Those who were previously tried in court for possession or use of cannabis for personal consumption only and were not tried for additional offenses, except for possession of paraphernalia for preparation and consumption of a dangerous drug for personal consumption only.²

In the spirit of the law and customary policy, the petition is not intended for an individual who, when committing the offense, was a minor or a soldier as defined in the Military Justice Law.³

¹ Section 7(c1) of the Dangerous Drugs Law [New Version], 5733-1973, which was added to the temporary order.

² Section 10 of the Dangerous Drugs Law [New Version], 5733-1973.

³ As well as any other person to whom a military court is authorized to adjudicate the offense under the said law.



However, it should be noted that this special petition does not preclude the submission of requests to expunge criminal records or other requests for clemency by any individual concerning the general pardon authority granted to the President of the State.

Where should you send the application for expungement of a criminal record?

The request to expunge a criminal record must be submitted online on the Office of the President's website or the website of the Pardons Department of the Ministry of Justice.

You may also submit via:

- 1) Email: Haninot@president.gov.il
- 2) Mail: 3 Hanasi Street, Jerusalem 9218801
- 3) Fax: 02-5887225

What should an application to expunge a criminal record include?

Requests for clemency must be submitted by the subject or their representative or via a first-degree relative. Personal information and contact info must be included in the request; details regarding the offense and the court's decision; a letter stating the reasons for the request, including personal circumstances and rehabilitation; and any additional documents that substantiate the reasons for the request.

Closed police records

In closed police files (police records), which did not lead to the filing of an indictment and the issuance of a sentence in a criminal case (criminal record), the authority to expunge the record is granted to the Israel Police and not to the President of the State. You may contact the Criminal Information Department of the Israel Police at 02-5429757, 02-5429672 or via fax at 02-5429144 or e-mail: bitul-rishum@police.gov.il.

The Office of the President

Legal Bureau



Ministry of Justice

Pardons Department

Additional Information:

The Office of the President's website:

<https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/units/president-of-the-state-of-israel-pardon>

The Ministry of Justice Pardons Department's website:

<https://www.gov.il/he/service/pardon request>

Phone contact info:

The Legal Bureau at the Office of the President, 09: 00-11: 00 by calling 02-6707211.

Pardons Department at the Ministry of Justice, 09: 00-11: 00 and 13: 00-15: 00 by calling 073-3927070.

The Legal Bureau

The Office of the President

Ministry of Justice

Pardons Department