

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARDON FOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION OFFENSES

On October 6, 2022, President Biden issued a presidential proclamation that pardons federal convictions for simple marijuana possession offenses. [October 6, 2022 presidential pardon](#)

The proclamation applies only to offenses that occurred on or before October 6, 2022, and it only applies to federal convictions, including D.C. Code offenses. It does not apply to convictions under state or local law or to offenses occurring after October 6, 2022.

A pardon is an expression of the President's forgiveness. It does not signify innocence or expunge the conviction. It does, however, remove civil disabilities—such as restrictions on the right to vote, to hold office, or to sit on a jury—that are imposed because of the pardoned conviction. It may also be helpful in obtaining licenses, bonding, or employment.

Eligible persons may need proof that President Biden's proclamation applies to them to achieve the full benefits of a pardon. The President has asked the Attorney General, acting through the Pardon Attorney, to issue those persons certificates to establish proof of pardon. The Office of the Pardon Attorney has made a short application form for individuals seeking a certificate of pardon, along with instructions for completing the application. The application and instructions are available [here](#). And a fuller explanation of this pardon is also available [here](#).

According to Pardon Attorney guidance, to be eligible for a pardon certificate an applicant must have been charged or convicted of simple possession of marijuana in either a federal court or D.C. Superior Court; been lawfully within the United States at the time of the offense; and were a U.S. Citizen or lawful permanent resident on October 6, 2022.

The Pardon Attorney also shared the following guidance about what information needs to be included on the online form to obtain a pardon certificate:

- Personal information, including name, date of birth, and place of birth.
- Contact information: email address is strongly preferred, but an applicant can also include a mailing address and/or phone number. If the applicant does not have their own email, mailing address or phone number, they can include the contact information of a person who is helping them complete the application.
- Information regarding the applicant's citizenship or immigration status, including alien registration or citizenship number of a person who is a lawful permanent resident or naturalized citizen and the date those statuses were attained.
- Court documents that include the district of conviction, code section of the conviction, date of conviction, and docket number, if convicted; or
- Court documents that include the code section of the charge, district where charged, and docket number, if charged but not convicted.