

2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT MINNESOTA BOARD OF PARDONS

Submitted by Matthew Heidenwirth
Minnesota Board of Pardons
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108-5219
Phone 651/361-7171
TTY 800/627-3529
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This report can be provided in another format upon request.

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Background

The Minnesota Board of Pardons (Board) is required to file a written report with the legislature by February 15 of each year, reporting the number of pardon/commutation and pardon extraordinary applications received and those granted by the Board. Minn. Stat. § 638.075.

The Board is made up of Minnesota’s Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Attorney General. Under Article V, Section 7 of the Minnesota Constitution and Minn. Stat. Chapter 638, the Board may grant the following types of relief to persons who have been convicted of crimes:

- **Pardon** – an act of forgiveness that exempts the convicted person from the punishment imposed by law.
- **Commutation** – the substitution of a lesser or different type of punishment for that imposed in the original sentence.
- **Pardon Extraordinary** – a statutorily-created relief granted to applicants who have served their sentences. When a pardon extraordinary is granted, the court is directed to issue an order setting aside the conviction and the applicant is no longer required to report the conviction, except in specified circumstances. The original conviction and the pardon extraordinary are recorded on the applicant’s criminal record.

Pardons/commutations may be granted to persons who are currently serving active Minnesota sentences. Pardons extraordinary may be granted to persons who committed Minnesota crimes, have fully served their sentences, and have waited the applicable waiting periods after discharge from their sentences before applying for relief.

2021 Meetings

The Board met on November 22, 2021, December 13, 2021, and December 14, 2021.

APPLICATIONS PROCESSED AND ACTION TAKEN IN 2021

Type of Application	Applications Processed	Number Granted
Pardon/Commutation	93 (1 withdrawn) (21 ineligible) (1 continued to spring 2022)	1
Pardon Extraordinary	92 (5 withdrawn) (25 ineligible) (6 continued to spring 2022)	40

PARDONS/COMMUTATIONS GRANTED IN 2021

Applicant Name	Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction	Relief Granted
Heiges, Samantha	Second-degree intentional murder	19	2008	Commutation

PARDONS EXTRAORDINARY GRANTED IN 2021

Applicant Name	Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
Affholter, Joseph	Fourth-degree assault on a peace officer	19	2008
Bak, Ricky *	Fifth-degree assault	48	2012
Banks, Maurice	Third-degree sale of a controlled substance	20	1993
	First-degree sale of a controlled substance	21	1995
Bardzel, Jessica	Theft of a motor vehicle		1999
	Theft	21	1999
	Offering forged checks		1999
Brandt, Emily	Underage drinking and driving	19	2007
Brents, James	Second-degree burglary	18	1992
Brown, DeMarcus	First-degree sale of a controlled substance	21	2000
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance		2004
	Fleeing police in a motor vehicle	25	2004
Brown, Jeremy	Fifth-degree assault	18	1995
	Violating an order for protection	21	1998
	Disorderly conduct	22	2000
Brunette, Robert	Aggravated assault (two counts)	19	1976
Bruzer, Brianna	Offering a forged check		2005
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	18	2005
	Issuing dishonored check	19	2006
Byrnes, Joseph	Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle	21	1971
	Burglary	27	1978
Combs, Thomas	Fifth-degree assault	41	2005
Cramer, Matthew	Attempted theft by swindle	19	1995

* Conditional pardon granted.

Doughty, Matthew	Third-degree criminal sexual conduct	16	1998
Garcia, Carlos	Financial card transaction fraud	18	1991
	First-degree DWI	31	2004
	Refusal to submit to a chemical test	33	2006
Grzinchich, Michael	Theft by swindle	29	1994
Heupel, Henry	Simple robbery	22	1982
	Simple robbery		1982
Hokkanen, James	Domestic assault	42	2005
Karle, Douglas	Attempted theft	18	1991
Laanonh, Kongkham	Theft	19	1997
Larson, Mark	Sale of cocaine	19	1982
Lindstrom, Zachary	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	21	2003
Lybarger, Brandon	Domestic assault	27	2008
Malon, Daniel	Malicious punishment of a child	24	2008
Manning, Eric	Second-degree controlled substance crime	32	1995
McClelland, Rayford [†]	Violating an order for protection	39	2012
	Violating an order for protection		2013
Mkali, Chaka	Accomplice to second-degree burglary	19	1992
	Accomplice to third-degree assault		1992
Moen, Joseph	Fleeing police officer in a vehicle		2008
	Intent to escape motor vehicle tax	22	2008
	Fourth-degree damage to property		2009
	Trespass	26	2009
Pappas, Zachary	Second-degree assault	23	1998
	Drive by shooting		1998
Pawlitschek, Allen	Third-degree criminal sexual conduct	19	1994
Pramann, Eric	Domestic Assault	24	1999
Prenosil-Lucas, James	Theft by check	20	2000
	Offering forged check	28	2008
Reynolds Jr., Robert	Possession of marijuana	30	1980
Sherman, Nicole	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	19	1998
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	23	2003
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	24	2003
	Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	25	2004

[†] Conditional pardon granted.

	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	26	2004
Stonestrom, Lea	Second-degree assault	18	1993
Sutcliffe-Isham, Daniel	Second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon	18	2005
	Violating a domestic abuse no contact order		2005
Thiesen, Timothy	First-degree arson of a dwelling	23	2007
Trudell, Eric	First-degree methamphetamine manufacture	29	2004
Williams, James	Second-degree burglary	20	1986
Wooten, Stevie	Fifth-degree assault	29	1990