



INMATE FAMILY/SUPPORTER INFORMATION

In an effort to protect the inmate population, during the current global pandemic surrounding Coronavirus-19, the state is taking measures to prevent the spread of disease to the residents of correctional facilities. The SC Department of Corrections has limited access to their correctional institutions by suspending all visitation at their facilities until further notice. No supporters or family members will be allowed to attend parole hearings until such time as this ban has been lifted.

Note: At this time, there is no change regarding attorney attendance. Attorneys will be allowed to attend the hearings, per the normal procedure.

In an effort to ensure that every inmate has the right to present witnesses/evidence on his/her own behalf, the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services is creating a **Hearing Witness Portal** that will allow supporters or family members who would have attended the parole hearing along with the inmate to submit a written statement of support via e-mail or US Postal Service at the addresses listed below. Please be reminded that the instructions received from SCDC limit the number of attendees to five. See below.

The inmate who is being considered for parole by the Parole Board may have up to five (5) total persons appear with him/her. Of the five, one (1) can be a minister/spiritual adviser, one (1) can be an attorney, and no more than three (3) can be family, friends, employers, etc.

Due to this normal restriction, only five statements per inmate from the **Hearing Witness Portal** will be presented to the Board. Any other statements received will be listed as Supporters, per the normal procedure.

In order to submit written Witness Testimony, use the link

HearingWitnessPortal@ppp.sc.gov

OR submit your statement in writing to
SCDPPPS Hearing Witness Portal
293 Greystone Ave
Columbia, SC 29210

Statements must be received at least 48 hours prior to the actual hearing date.

PARDON APPLICANT INFORMATION

Effective immediately, in-person attendance will NOT be permitted during Pardon Hearings. Until further notice, all pardon applicants scheduled will be considered in absence. The Board's decision will be posted online as well as mailed to the applicant within 48 hours of the hearing date.

If you wish for your pardon request to not be considered in your absence, you may request that your hearing be postponed. Please note that due to the circumstances, there will be a significant delay in the rescheduling of your hearing. Pardon applicants may request a postponement as described below.

All requests to reschedule the pardon hearing must be made at least three weeks prior to the scheduled hearing date; either by telephone to 803-734-3295 (Wanda Wingate, Pardon Coordinator) or email boardsupportservices@ppp.sc.gov or letter addressed to SCDPPPS, PARDON HEARING RESCHEDULE, PO BOX 207, Columbia, SC 29202.

For the 04/01/2020 Hearing Date All requests to reschedule must be made by **Wednesday, March 25, 2020 by end of business (5pm)**.

Note: All applicants scheduled for 04/01/2020 have been notified via e-mail (as available), by telephone and by US Postal Service regarding these rules. Failure to respond to the notifications implies that you indeed wish for your pardon request to be considered in your absence.

VICTIM AND WITNESS INFORMATION

Effective immediately, for parole and pardon hearings, there will be no face to face appearances; due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following options will apply:

1. We are asking people to state their opposition to the Parole Board via a telephone call or in writing in lieu.
2. Statements can be provided via email (PPPVictimInformation@ppp.sc.gov), fax (803-734-8822) or by orally giving your statement to an OVS team member.
3. All statements will be provided to and reviewed by the Board prior to making a decision on the case.
4. An Advocate from the Office of Victim Services will call you during the hearing if you prefer a phone call.
5. You will speak to the Board, as if you were attending the hearing.
6. You will receive a phone call from the Advocate with the outcome after the hearing concludes.