

Kentucky Reprieve Power

The Kentucky Constitution vests the governor with plenary “power to remit fines and forfeitures, commute sentences, grant reprieves and pardons, except in case of impeachment.” Ky. Const. § 77. According to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, “the decision to grant clemency is left to the unfettered discretion of the Governor.” *Foley v. Beshear*, 462 S.W.3d 389, 392 (Ky. 2015) (citing *Baze v. Thompson*, 302 S.W.3d 57, 60 (Ky. 2010)).

“There exist only two constitutionally mandated requirements under Section 77: that the movant file an application for clemency with the Governor; and that the Governor file with each application a statement of the reasons for his decision . . . No other constitutional provision or statute establishes specific procedures to be followed or imposes standards or criteria for the clemency decision.” *Baze*, 302 S.W.3d at 60.