



New York State Archives

**New York State Department of State Respite and
Commutations B0048**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series consists of respites and commutations. The governor has the authority to grant pardons and respites. The respites concern stays of execution for individuals sentenced to death; commutations are reductions of sentences. Respites and commutations normally include the name of the convicted felon, crime, date, court, original sentence, commutation and place of incarceration.
Creator:	New York (State). Department of State
Title:	Respites and commutations
Quantity:	1 cubic foot
Inclusive Date:	1854-1931
Series:	B0048

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Arrangement

Chronological by date of respite or commutation.

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Scope and Content Note

This series consists of five bound volumes of printed copies (with blanks filled in by hand) of respites and commutations, and one folder of original requests for respites by the governor to the secretary of state, under the provision of the state's constitution. The governor was granted the authority to grant pardons and respites. The respites concern stays of execution for individuals sentenced to death. Capital commutations are reductions of sentences from death to life imprisonment, while commutations are reductions of sentences. The respites and commutations normally include the name of the convicted felon, crime, date, court, original sentence, commutation and place of incarceration.

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Related Information

Related Material

B13253 Executive pardons, respites, commutations, restorations of citizenship, and certificates contains records related to executive clemency.

B1201 Name index to executive pardons, respites, commutations, restorations of citizenship and certificates of good conduct contains records related to executive clemency.

B0042 Executive pardons contains records related to executive clemency.

B0046 Executive restorations of citizenship rights contains records related to executive clemency.

B0049 Executive orders for commutations, pardons, restorations, and respites, contains records related to executive clemency.

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

Indexes are available for all volumes except volume one.

Volume list is available at the repository.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Alternate Formats Available

Items Online

The entire series is digitized as part of a larger collection of Executive Clemency records available to New York State residents for free on Ancestry.com New York. You must sign up for a free account to access these records without a paid subscription. To learn more, go to [How to Use Ancestry.com New York](#)

[Executive Orders for Commutations, Pardons, Restorations, Clemency and Respite, 1845-1931 on Ancestry.com](#)

Access Terms

- Prisoners
- Crime
- Criminals
- New York (State)
- Releasing
- Clemency