

IMPORTANT! WE CAN ONLY HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THE CRIME FOR WHICH YOU ARE IN PRISON. WE CANNOT HELP YOU IF ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE:

- ❖ You played any role in the crime, even a minor role.
- ❖ You feel you should have been convicted of a different crime.
- ❖ Although your conviction was correct, you feel your sentence should be shorter.
- ❖ You acted in self-defense.
- ❖ You claim the defense of insanity or intoxication.
- ❖ You were convicted of sexual assault for a sexual encounter that you say was consensual.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND TRANSCRIPTS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS UNTIL REQUESTED.

PART 1 -- BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CONVICTION

Name _____ DOC # _____ Date of Birth _____

Current Prison _____

- (1) State of Conviction: _____
- (2) County of Conviction: _____
- (3) On approximately what date(s) did the alleged crime(s) occur? _____
 - i. In what city did the alleged crime(s) occur? _____
- (4) What police or sheriff's department investigated the crime(s)? _____
 - i. Who was the investigating officer? _____
- (5) If you were convicted of a sexual assault, how much time passed between the alleged assault and the date when the alleged victim first reported the crime to the police? _____
- (6) Date of Conviction(s): _____
- (7) Case #: _____
- (8) Offense(s) for which you are incarcerated: _____ Sentence Length: _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
- (9) Which of the above listed charge(s) and conviction(s) are you innocent of?

(10) If you received more than one sentence, are they **Concurrent** or **Consecutive**?

(11) MR/ES or Expected Date of Release: _____

(12) Were you convicted as a conspirator, accomplice or PTAC (Party To A Crime)? No Yes

a. If YES, please list your co-defendant(s) below:

(13) What are the names of the alleged victim(s)? _____

(14) Did you have a trial or did you plead?

Jury Trial

Guilty Plea

Bench Trial

Alford

No Contest

a. If you pled guilty or no-contest or Alford, why did you choose to accept the plea agreement? _____

b. If you pled guilty or no-contest or Alford to a reduced charge, what crime were you first charged with?

(15) Are you currently challenging your conviction in court? No Yes

a. If you are not currently challenging your conviction, have you challenged it in the past?

No Yes If yes, please provide the type of appeal(s), when you filed it (them), and the decision date(s): _____

b. If YES to either of the above, what claims or issues were raised, and in which court?

(16) Does an attorney currently represent you for any reason? No Yes

a. If YES, please give the name of your attorney and contact information, as well as what the attorney is representing you on.

(17) In the past, have you requested assistance from another innocence clinic? No Yes

a. If YES, please give the names of the clinics you contacted and, if they turned down your case, what reason was provided for their denial of assistance?

(18) Do you have any of the following documents:

Police Reports

Guilty Plea Hearing Transcripts

Lab Reports

Appeal Briefs

Trial Transcripts

a. If not, who may have any of the documents listed above? Please include that person's contact information if you have it.

PART 2 -- WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Use extra paper if necessary. Give as many details as possible.

(1) Please describe your version of events that explains why you are innocent:

(2) Were you present at the scene of the crime when the crime occurred?

No → If you were NOT at the scene, can you recall where you were and what you were doing when the crime occurred? Explain:

Yes → If you WERE at the scene, please explain why you were there:

(3) How did you become a suspect?

(4) Did you confess to the crime(s)? If so, explain why you confessed and if your lawyer was present at your confession.

PART 3 -- TRIAL OR PLEA HEARING

Use extra paper if necessary. Give as many details as possible.

(1) What did the District Attorney say about where, when and how the crime committed?

(2) We understand you are claiming that you are innocent, but according to the Prosecuting Attorney, exactly what was your role in the action?

(3) List the names of the prosecution's key witnesses. Explain what each witness said.

PART 4 -- EVIDENCE

Give as many details as possible. Remember we can only help you if we can develop new evidence of your innocence that has not yet been presented to a court.

(1) Were any of the following pieces of evidence gathered from the **crime scene, the victim, or you as the alleged perpetrator**? Check all that apply or all that you know of:

- Hair Blood Semen Saliva Skin
- Gun Knife Broken Glass Other Weapon: _____
- Fingerprints Footprints Shoeprints Other Prints: _____
- Victim Clothing Perpetrator Clothing Other Clothing: _____
- Victim Fingernail Scrapings/Clippings Perpetrator Fingernail Scrapings/Clippings
- Other Scrapings/Clippings: _____
- Cigarette Butts Drinking Cups Auto Parts or Auto Interior
- Sheets or Bed Covers Carpets / Rugs Other Household Items: _____
- Rape Kit SAFE Exam Other Evidence NOT on this Checklist

Please describe Other Evidence NOT on this Checklist:

(2) Was physical evidence collected from you? If so, where was that evidence collected from (your person, your clothing, your car or home, etc.)?

(3) Was any of the evidence tested? No Yes

a. If YES, please describe the type of test, the results of the testing, and who did testing:

- (4) Are there any witnesses who did not make statements earlier, or who made statements against you, but would now support your claim of innocence? If so, explain what they would say now, and why they didn't say it earlier. Give names and contact information.

- (5) Did the victim(s) identify you? Yes No

If YES: In a lineup? Yes No

From a photo spread? Yes No

At trial? Yes No

Show-up? Yes No

Other? (explain) Yes No

- (6) Did anyone else identify you? Yes No

If YES: Who? When? Where? What was that person's relationship to you or the crime?

(7) Did the police or an investigating detective ever interview you? Yes No

If YES:

a) How many times were you interviewed? _____

b) How long were the interviews? _____

c) Did you ask to speak with a lawyer during the interview? Yes No

d) When was the first time you spoke with your lawyer? _____

e) Did you sign papers *during* the interview? Yes No

f) Did you sign papers *after* the interview? Yes No

If YES, what did you sign and did you sign it based on the advice of your attorney?

g) Did you give any other statements? Yes No

If YES:

i. How many statements? _____

ii. Did you make a confession in any of your statements? Yes No

iii. What did you say? Please specify what you said in each statement.

iv. Who did you give the statement(s) to?

v. When did you give each statement? (Ex.: during arrest, a week after arrest)

vi. Why did you give a statement? _____

vii. Were any of the statements or confessions not true? Yes No

If Yes, which parts were not true? _____

Why did you say them? _____

viii. Was your lawyer present when you gave any of these statements? Yes No

ix. Were any of your statements:

If Yes, which statements?

Written? Yes No _____

Taped? Yes No _____

Videotaped? Yes No _____

Signed by You? Yes No _____

x. If you signed any statements, was your lawyer with you when you signed the
statement(s)? Yes No

(8) Describe any other new evidence or documents that can prove your innocence, and explain why
this evidence was not presented before.

(9) Please add any other explanations that you believe would be helpful. *Examples: what certain witnesses said, who you think really committed the crime, etc.*

(10) Contact person(s) outside of prison

a. Name, address, phone, relationship

Can we discuss your case with this individual? _____

b. Name, address, phone, relationship

Can we discuss your case with this individual? _____

IMPORTANT—READ AND SIGN ON LINES BELOW

I UNDERSTAND THE MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT IS NOT OBLIGATED TO REPRESENT ME

I understand that by conducting an initial investigation, the Midwest Innocence Project does not represent me and is not agreeing to represent me. I understand that if the Midwest Innocence Project does agree to represent me I will be informed of the scope of the representation by the Midwest Innocence Project. I further understand that at any point the Midwest Innocence Project, at its sole discretion, may determine that further investigation is not warranted and is under no obligation to represent me.

⇒ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____

AUTHORIZATION TO CONTACT OTHER CLINICS

By signing below, I authorize the Midwest Innocence Project to contact and obtain information from other innocence and wrongful conviction projects, clinics, units, divisions, or centers (“Projects”) to which I have applied. I understand that the Midwest Innocence Project may share my name and case number with these Projects in the interest of assisting in my claim. By signing below, I authorize the Midwest Innocence Project to inquire about previous requests to other Projects, request documents and case materials from other Projects, and discuss my case and claims with other Projects. By signing below, I also authorize other Projects to release documents and information about my application, case(s) and claim(s) to the Midwest Innocence Project. In addition, I understand the Midwest Innocence Project can refer my case to a different innocence clinic if it is better suited to assist in my case.

⇒ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____

RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

By signing below, I authorize the Midwest Innocence Project to assign a lawyer or one or more law students, working under the direct and immediate supervision of an attorney, to investigate my case. This includes, but is not limited to, authorizing correspondence and/or telephone calls to prior counsel, prosecutors, or witnesses. I authorize any and all entities and persons, including my former attorney(s), investigator(s), and appellate programs who worked on my case, to release to the Midwest Innocence Project or to its staff or student representatives, any and all records, files, reports, and information of any kind related to me or to any criminal case involving me, including police reports, witness statements, post-conviction pleadings, and correctional records, presentencing reports and other documents in prison social services and legal files, legal papers, court documents, medical records, laboratory analyses, probation reports, attorneys’ files and records, and any other information necessary to the Project’s work on my behalf.

I understand there may be statutes, rules, regulations, and release-of-information forms specific to a particular institution that protect the confidentiality of health and non-health records, files, reports, and information covered by this release; it is my specific intent to waive the protection provided by all such statutes, rules, regulations, and institution-specific forms, so that confidential information can be shared with the Midwest Innocence Project. By my signature below, I represent that this waiver is voluntary and given without any reservation.

This authorization is effective until revoked by the undersigned in writing.

⇒ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____