



**QUESTIONNAIRE TO REQUEST AID**

**Waiver**

The mission of UNCUFF THE INNOCENT is to help free the innocent and increase public safety by preventing and overturning the wrongful conviction of law enforcement officers and other individuals. Thank you for being willing to share your story with us so that we may be able to help you.

Please fill out this questionnaire to ask UNCUFF THE INNOCENT to provide you with aid to overcome your wrongful allegation/conviction or regain a secure and fulfilling life after freedom. Aid could include: financial aid for legal expenses; additional investigation to discover evidence of innocence; publicity about your case; financial or other aid to help you handle challenges after you are free.

We will use your completed questionnaire to start a preliminary investigation into your case to decide whether we will be able to help you.

However, before we can begin, we must make sure that you understand our willingness to conduct an investigation does not establish an attorney-client relationship between you and UNCUFF THE INNOCENT or any volunteer conducting an investigation.

By signing this waiver, you are agreeing to allow UNCUFF THE INNOCENT to contact any and all attorneys connected with your case. Furthermore, you are agreeing to allow these attorneys to release information regarding your case to UNCUFF THE INNOCENT. Also, you are agreeing to give UNCUFF THE INNOCENT the permission to use your name on our website.

If you are willing to permit us to conduct an investigation based on the terms of the preceding paragraphs, then please sign and date a copy of this letter and return it to UNCUFF THE INNOCENT, P.O. Box 184, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Your Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONNAIRE INSTRUCTIONS**

As the wrongfully accused or wrongfully convicted person requesting aid from UNCUFF THE INNOCENT, please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. You may use additional paper when necessary. If a question is not applicable to your case, please write "N/A" in the space provided. You may print out and complete only the sections that apply to your case. Please e-mail a scan of your completed questionnaire to [uncuff@uncufftheinnocent.org](mailto:uncuff@uncufftheinnocent.org) or mail it to:

UNCUFF THE INNOCENT  
P.O. Box 184  
Ames, Iowa 50010

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date on which you are completing this questionnaire: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Current Address:**

Inmate ID #, if you are incarcerated: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Institution Name, if incarcerated: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Prison Counselor/Case Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your e-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** whom should we contact in case of an emergency?

Emergency Contact's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact's Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU CLAIMING ACTUAL INNOCENCE of the crime for which you were accused or convicted? YES / NO (please circle)**

If YES, then we may be able to help you. Please answer the questions below.

**I. YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION AND NEEDS**

**1. What type of aid do you feel you need the most?**

(Examples: financial aid for legal expenses; legal help; additional investigation of your case; publicity about your case; financial or other aid following release)

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**2. Have you received or are you currently receiving aid from another innocence organization? YES / NO**

If YES, which organization and what sort of aid have you received or are you receiving now?

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**3. Are you currently indigent? YES / NO**

**4. What is your current monthly income?** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Do you have sufficient funds or assets to pay for your own attorney? YES / NO**

**6. If you are wrongfully accused or convicted, how much financial aid for legal expenses do you expect you will need? \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Who is the attorney who would be paid with our aid?**

**a. Attorney's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Attorney's Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Attorney's City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**d. Attorney's Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e. Attorney's E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**8. If you are now free after your wrongful conviction, please answer a. – d. below:**

**a. Have you been exonerated? YES / NO**

If NO, what were the conditions that led to your release from prison?

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**b. How much financial aid do you need, and how would you use our financial aid (e.g. for living expenses, legal fees, education)? \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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**c. Are you eligible to file for and receive compensation from the state for your wrongful conviction? YES / NO. If YES, how much money could you receive and when? \$** \_\_\_\_\_

d. Have you filed for compensation from the state for your wrongful conviction? **YES / NO.** If YES, how much money did you receive or will you receive, and when? \$\_\_\_\_\_

9. Other information about your financial situation you feel we should know about:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. YOUR PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

1. What is your primary language? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the highest level of education you have completed? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please list the school(s) you attended: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Did you work in Law Enforcement at the time you were accused? **YES / NO**  
If YES, what is the contact information of the Law Enforcement Agency for which you worked?

a. Law Enforcement Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Law Enforcement Agency Address: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Law Enforcement Agency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Time period when you worked for that agency: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Have you been accused or convicted of other offenses? **YES / NO**

If YES, please provide the charges, dates, sentence, and location:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Other information about yourself that you feel we should know?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**III. CASE INFORMATION**

**1. Location of your court case (City, County, State):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Your Trial Case File Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What is the stage of your case within the criminal justice system (e.g. accused; arrested; completed preliminary hearing; facing trial; in the direct appeal of your wrongful conviction; in state post-conviction; filing state or federal habeas corpus petitions; released or exonerated)?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Date of incident leading to your arrest/incarceration:** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Date of your arrest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Why do you think you were identified as a suspect in this case?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. What is the name and age of the alleged victim(s)?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**a. Did you know the alleged victim(s) before the incident? YES / NO**

**b. If so, please explain how:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Charge(s) on your indictment/information/complaint filed against you:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Were you offered a plea bargain? YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the following:

**a. What was the plea bargain?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**b.** Why did you turn it down, or did you accept it?

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**10.** If your conviction differs from the charges mentioned above, please list what you were convicted of: \_\_\_\_\_

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**11.** What was the date of your conviction? \_\_\_\_\_

**12.** What was the length of your sentence? \_\_\_\_\_

**13.** How much time have you served? \_\_\_\_\_

**14.** When are you eligible for parole? \_\_\_\_\_

**15.** Was anyone else charged in this crime (were there co-defendants?) **YES / NO**

**16.** Please list names of co-defendant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**17.** If there are co-defendants, what happened to them and where are they now?

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**18.** Do you know who committed the crime(s) you were wrongly accused of or convicted of? **YES / NO**

If YES, please give their name(s) and location(s):

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**21.** Was any of the evidence that proves your innocence known before your trial, used at trial, or known before your conviction? **YES / NO**

If YES, please explain:

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**22.** Is any of the evidence that proves your innocence **new**, meaning it was discovered *after* your trial?

(“New evidence” can include, among other things, newly discovered physical evidence, a newly-discovered witness, a key witness who has recanted her or his trial testimony, evidence in existence at the time of your trial that can now be subjected to new scientific testing, and evidence or a witness that should have been found and presented by your trial attorney but was not presented at trial.)

**YES / NO**

If YES, please explain what is the new evidence that proves your innocence:

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**23.** If there is **new** evidence in your case, has any of this new evidence already been presented to any judge? **YES / NO**

If YES, please tell us which judge was presented with the evidence, when and how the evidence was presented to that judge (examples: an affidavit, a letter, or testimony at a hearing) and what the judge said or wrote about the new evidence, if anything. \_\_\_\_\_

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**24.** Briefly describe any **new** evidence, if any, that exists in your case that would lead to proof of innocence but has **not** been presented to a court in an appeal or habeas corpus proceeding: \_\_\_\_\_

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**25.** What evidence, if any, do you feel should still be collected to help prove your innocence? (Examples: an alibi witness, eyewitness, DNA from a weapon)

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**26.** Please list the documents you can make available to us if we request them. (Examples: police reports, laboratory reports, hearing transcripts, trial transcripts, appellate briefs, habeas briefs.) However, please do not send anything until we specifically request it.

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**IV. POLICE INVESTIGATION**

**1. Who was the investigating detective in charge of your case?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Police Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Police Department Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Do you feel the police detectives engaged in unethical behavior and/or did not follow proper investigation procedures? YES / NO**

If YES, what did they do wrong?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Did the police or investigating detective(s) ever interview you? YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the following:

a. How many times were you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How long were the interviews? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Did you ask to speak to a lawyer during the interview(s), and if so, did the interview stop when you requested your lawyer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Did you sign any papers during the interview, and if so, what did you sign?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Did you make any statements or confessions to the police before or after you were arrested? YES / NO**

If YES, please answer each of the questions below:

a. Why did you make statement? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. How many times were you interviewed by the police where you made a statement? \_\_\_\_\_

**c.** When and to whom did you make each statement? (Example: the day before the arrest, during the arrest, two weeks after the arrest, etc.)

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**d.** Were any of your statements recorded as audio or video? **YES / NO**

If YES, which statements were recorded? \_\_\_\_\_

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**e.** Were any of your statements written down? **YES / NO**

If YES, which statements were written down and who wrote them?

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**f.** Did you sign any written statements? **YES / NO**

If YES, which statement(s) did you sign? \_\_\_\_\_

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**g.** For each statement you made to the police, briefly tell us what you said:

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**h.** Were any of your statements not true? **YES / NO**

If YES, which ones were not true, what was not true in those statements, and why did you tell the police something that was not true?

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5. To your knowledge, were there any other suspects the police investigated?  
If so, whom? To your knowledge, why did the investigation into that person stop?

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6. Did the police have any eyewitnesses identify you or other possible suspects?

**YES / NO**

If YES, please tell us *who the witnesses were, when, and where the identification occurred* (crime scene, live lineup, photo lineup, showup, or trial), and *whether each witness picked you or anyone else out*. Please also tell us anything else you believe we should know about the identification process.

(A “showup” is an out-of- court, pretrial identification procedure in which a suspect is presented singly to a witness for identification purposes.)

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7. Did anyone else identify or implicate you, and if so, who, where, and when?

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**8. Do you have an alibi that proves you could not have committed the crime(s) you were accused of? YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the following:

**a. Please describe your alibi and how it can be proven:**

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**b. List any alibi witnesses (name, address, telephone):**

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**c. Did you tell your trial attorney about your alibi? YES / NO**

**V. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IN YOUR CASE**

**1. Was any non-biological physical evidence** (such as weapons, fibers, tire tracks, fingerprints, etc.) **or biological evidence** (such as skin cells, body fluids, or hair samples) recovered during the investigation of your case? **YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the questions in this section.

If NO, skip to the next section.

**2. If non-biological physical evidence** (such as weapons, fibers, tire tracks, footprints, fingerprints, etc.) was recovered, please list what was collected and where it came from (e.g. crime scene; alleged victim’s body or clothes; from you or your clothes).

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**3. If biological evidence** (such as skin cells, body fluids, or hair samples) was recovered, please answer these questions:

**a. Was any biological evidence found at the crime scene**, and if so, what was found and where?

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**b. Was any biological evidence found on the victim**, and if so, what was found and where? \_\_\_\_\_

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**c. Were any body fluids or hair samples obtained from the victim**, and if so, what samples were obtained (for example, vaginal swabs, anal swabs, blood, hair, fingernail scrapings, saliva, etc.)?

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**d.** Were body fluids or hair(s) found **on you**, your clothing, in your car, home, etc., and if so, what was found and where?

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**e.** Were any body fluids, hair(s), or swabs obtained **from you**, and if so, what samples were obtained? Who took the samples and where was it done?

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**4.** Was any **testing** done on the clothing, body fluids, hair samples, or other physical evidence collected? **YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the following questions:

**a.** What was tested and what type of testing was done?

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**b.** Who had the testing done? Prosecution \_\_\_\_\_ **or** Defense \_\_\_\_\_

**c.** Who actually did the test? (Lab's name, address, telephone)

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**d.** What was the result of the testing? \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Was a second test done on any of the physical evidence? YES / NO**

If YES,

**a. What was tested and what type of second testing was done?**

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**b. Who had the second test done? Prosecution \_\_\_\_\_ or Defense \_\_\_\_\_**

**c. Who actually did the second test? (Lab's name, address, telephone)**

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**d. What was the result of the second testing?**

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**6. Were test results used at trial, and if no, why not?**

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7. Were the test results used on appeal, and if no, why not?

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8. Was testing done on all of the physical evidence collected in the investigation?

**YES / NO**

If NO, list the evidence that was not tested and where it is:

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9. Please list what item(s) of evidence you think can be subjected to a DNA test and explain how that test will show you are innocent:

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10. Would you be willing to submit your DNA for testing, knowing that the test could be used as evidence of your guilt or innocence? **YES / NO**

**VI. TRIAL**

If you had a trial, please answer these questions. If not, skip to the next section.

1. When did your trial begin and conclude? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was the presiding judge? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who decided your guilt and punishment? (Judge or jury) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who are/were your trial attorneys? (Please provide name(s), addresses, and telephone) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. When was the first time you spoke with your trial lawyer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who are/were the prosecutor(s) at trial? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please provide name(s) addresses, and telephone) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe the **prosecution's case at trial**:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Did the prosecution present any physical evidence or forensic test results against you? **YES / NO**

If YES, please list that evidence:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Did the prosecution present any statement or confession by you? YES / NO**

If YES,

a. Which statement did the prosecution present? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Did your attorney make a motion to suppress your statement or confession?  
**YES / NO**

**10. Who testified for the prosecution?**

Victim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Eyewitness(es) \_\_\_\_\_ Expert(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Other(s) \_\_\_\_\_

a. If an expert testified for the prosecution, please provide the name, address, telephone, and expertise (such as a doctor, handwriting expert, scientist, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. If an eyewitness identified you and testified at the trial, please provide the eyewitness's name, address, and telephone, and when and where you were identified (for example, crime scene, photo lineup, in court, other):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Did any surviving family member or friend give a victim impact statement, and if so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Please list additional prosecution witnesses (name, address, telephone):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**11. What was your defense at trial?**

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**12. Who testified for the defense?**

Eyewitness(es) \_\_\_\_\_ Expert(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Other(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**a. Was there an issue with the physical evidence or the circumstances of the case, such as the alleged sequence of events during the incident? YES / NO**

If YES, what was the issue? \_\_\_\_\_

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**b. Did you or your attorney request an expert? YES / NO**

If YES, what was the area of expertise you were seeking expert opinion on and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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**c. Was an expert hired by, or provided to, the defense? YES / NO**

If YES, please write the expert's name, address, telephone, and expertise (such as a doctor, handwriting expert, scientist, etc.):

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If NO, do you feel the defense should have had an expert, and why?

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**d. Did the expert(s) testify for the defense during your trial? YES / NO**

**e. Were you satisfied with the expert(s)? YES / NO**

If NO, who was the expert and why were you not satisfied?

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**f. Please list family members or friends who testified on your behalf (name, address, telephone):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**g.** Please list additional defense witnesses (name, address, telephone):

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**13.** Did you testify at your trial? **YES / NO.** Why or why not?

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**14.** Did any co-defendants testify at your trial, and if so, please provide their name(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

**15.** Do you know if the co-defendant(s) were offered anything in exchange for their testimony, and if so, what were they offered?

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**16.** Why do you feel you were convicted at your trial? (Examples: the prosecution withheld information from the defense; the suspect identification by eyewitnesses was flawed; witnesses lied; the forensic evidence was misrepresented; your attorney was ineffective; the judge or jury were biased against you and ignored evidence of innocence, etc.)

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**VII. GUILTY PLEA, NOLO CONTENDERE (“NO CONTEST”), OR ALFORD PLEA CASES**

Answer these questions only if you pleaded guilty, nolo contendere (“no contest”), or gave an Alford Plea to the charges for which were convicted. If instead you went to trial, skip ahead to the next section.

**1. Type of plea: Guilty / Nolo Contendere (“no contest”) / Alford Plea**

**2. Did your attorney talk to you about a plea bargain? YES / NO**

If YES, what did your attorney tell you about the plea bargain?

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**3. Why did you decide to plead guilty, nolo contendere (“no contest”), or give an Alford Plea?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Have you ever tried to withdraw your plea? YES / NO. If YES,**

**a. When did you try to withdraw it (examples: before sentencing, during the appeal, after the appeals)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**b. What reason did you (or your lawyer) give for trying to withdraw your plea?**

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**c. What reason did the court give for not letting you withdraw your plea?**

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**VIII. APPEALS**

**1. Did you appeal your conviction? YES / NO. If NO, why not?**

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**a. Appellate Case File Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Your appellate attorney (Name, Address, Telephone):**

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**c. Date your appeal was filed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**d. Date your appeal was decided:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e. What was the Court's opinion in your appeal?**

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**2. Have you filed any post-conviction petitions? YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the following questions:

**a. Post-Conviction Case Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Did you have a post-conviction attorney? YES / NO**

If YES, who was your **post-conviction attorney?**

(Name, Address, Telephone): \_\_\_\_\_

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**c. What did you file?** \_\_\_\_\_



d. When did you file it? \_\_\_\_\_

e. What was the result? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Have there been any state habeas proceedings on your behalf? YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the following questions:

a. Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

b. When and before which court? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Did you have an attorney? YES / NO

If YES, who was your attorney for your state habeas petition?

(Name, Address, Telephone) \_\_\_\_\_

d. What was the result? \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Did you file a petition for federal habeas corpus relief? YES / NO**

If YES, please answer the following questions:

a. USDC Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

b. When and before which U.S. District Court? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Did you have an attorney? YES / NO

If YES, who was your attorney for your federal habeas corpus petition?

(Name, Address, Telephone) \_\_\_\_\_

d. What was the result of your petition for federal habeas corpus relief?

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**5. Did you appeal to a Circuit Court of Appeals? YES / NO**

If YES, what was the result? \_\_\_\_\_

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**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING OUR LONG QUESTIONNAIRE!**

You may wish to make a copy for your records.

**Please mail your completed questionnaire to:**

UNCUFF THE INNOCENT  
P.O. Box 184  
Ames, Iowa 50010

**or e-mail a scanned copy of your completed questionnaire to:**

[uncuff@uncufftheinnocent.org](mailto:uncuff@uncufftheinnocent.org)

**We will contact you as soon as we can  
to inform you of our decision or request more information.**