

**MID-ATLANTIC INNOCENCE PROJECT
SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE**

NAME: _____

PRISONER NUMBER: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____

CURRENT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND ADDRESS:

TODAY'S DATE: _____

IF YOU WERE NOT CONVICTED IN VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, OR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, PLEASE DO NOT CONTINUE. WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT CASES ONLY WHERE THE CONVICTION OCCURRED IN ONE OF THESE STATES.

WHEN RETURNING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO US, PLEASE INCLUDE COPIES OF ANY BRIEFS AND DECISIONS FILED IN THE COURSE OF YOUR DIRECT APPEALS, AS WELL AS ANY LAB REPORTS IN YOUR POSSESSION. PLEASE ALSO SIGN AND COMPLETE THE "THIRD PARTY CONTACT AUTHORIZATION FORM" ATTACHED TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

**RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO:
THE MID-ATLANTIC INNOCENCE PROJECT
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
2000 H ST. NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20052**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.
IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION, YOU MAY
LEAVE IT BLANK.**

PART I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. List the crimes of which you were convicted in the case you are writing us about (for example: murder, attempted murder, rape, etc.), and your sentence for each crime:

2. Date and place of your conviction, and court case docket number, if you know it:

3. Are you **factually innocent** of all of these crimes? If not, which crimes did you commit and which crimes did you not commit?

4. Do you currently have a lawyer? If so, please provide his or her name, address, and telephone number. Do not include lawyers who previously represented you but are not currently working on your case.

5. Please describe what you were convicted of doing. What was the crime? What did the prosecutors say happened? What, if anything, was your involvement in what happened? What do you think really happened? Why? Feel free to add additional pages if necessary.

PART II: YOUR TRIAL AND APPEALS

6. Who was your trial attorney? Was he or she appointed to represent you, or did you hire him or her?

7. Where was your attorney located? Do you know where we can reach him or her today?

8. How were you convicted (circle one)?

Jury trial Judge trial Guilty plea Alford /no contest/nolo contendere plea

9. Did you appeal your conviction? If so, what was the decision?

10. Have you filed any other post-conviction appeals or petitions? If so, have they been decided? What was the result?

11. Did any attorneys help you with your appeals or post-conviction filings? If so, please provide their names, contact information, and an explanation of what they helped you with.

12. List all issues raised in each of your post-conviction motions or petitions (for example: ineffective assistance of counsel, prosecutorial misconduct, police misconduct, etc.):

PART III: YOUR ARREST AND INVESTIGATION

13. How did you become a suspect in the case (if you know)?

14. Describe the circumstances of your arrest: where were you and how and when did it happen?

15. What was the name of the victim(s)?

16. Did you know the victim(s)? If so, how?

17. Who were the investigating detectives on your case?

18. Did the police or investigating detective interview or interrogate you, either before or after you were arrested?

19. How many times, and for how long?

20. Was any part of the interview(s) recorded?

21. Did you give a written statement?

22. If you gave a statement in any form, please explain why you chose to do so, and briefly describe what you told the police.

23. Was any victim or witness asked to identify you prior to trial with a line-up or photo spread? If so, please describe.

24. Did you take a lie detector test? If so, why and what was the result?

25. Was there anyone who was asked to identify you but could not? If so, who, when, and where?

PART IV: IF YOU PLEADED GUILTY (OR ALFORD/NO CONTEST)

(If you pleaded guilty or Alford/no contest/nolo contendere to any charge, please answer the following questions. If you went to trial, please skip to Part V.)

26. What kind of plea did you enter (circle one):

Guilty

Alford/no contest/nolo contendere

27. Did your attorney advise you take a plea bargain?

28. If yes, what did your attorney say to make you decide that a plea was in your best interest?

29. If no, why did you choose to accept the plea agreement?

30. Did you tell your attorney that you were innocent? If not, why not?

31. If the plea was in writing, did you sign it? If so, was your attorney present?

32. Did you read and understand what you were signing? If not, why did you sign it?

33. Did you ever try to withdraw your plea?

PART V: YOUR TRIAL

(If you pleaded guilty and did NOT go to trial, please skip to Part VI.)

34. Who was the prosecuting attorney?

35. Who was the trial judge?

36. Did you have any co-defendants? If so, did they plead guilty or go to trial? Were they also convicted? Did any of them testify against you?

37. Did you testify on your own behalf? If not, why not?

38. Did any of the victims testify? If so, please list their names and any information you have about how to contact them.

39. Did any eyewitnesses testify, either for you or against you? If so, please list their names and any information you have about how to contact them.

40. Did any experts testify for either side? If so, who and what did they say?

41. Who else testified for the prosecution at your trial?

42. Who else testified for the defense at your trial?

43. Did any police informants or snitches testify against you at your trial?

44. Did any informant or snitch who testified claim to have learned information about your case from you while you were in jail?

45. Did any informant or snitch claim to have learned any information from you about your case before you were arrested?

46. Did anybody testify against you in exchange for a promise of leniency in his or her own case?

47. Did anyone who testified against you, including the alleged victim, have a reason to lie? If yes, please explain.

48. Do you have an alibi that proves you could not have committed the crime because you were somewhere else at the time the crime was committed?

49. Did you attempt to prove the alibi at trial? If so, how? If not, why not?

50. Please briefly describe the make-up of your jury, including the races and genders of your jurors. How long did they deliberate? Are there any other facts we should know about your jury?

51. Please describe the defense that you or your attorney raised at trial. (For example, if you were convicted of rape, did you assert that the sex was consensual, or that you were wrongfully identified as the assailant? Or did you argue self-defense, present an alibi, or raise some other defense?)

PART VI: PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

52. Was any physical and/or biological evidence recovered during the investigation of your case? If so, please describe it.

53. If applicable, was a PERK or rape kit obtained from the alleged victim?

54. Was any testing done on the evidence? If so, what kind?

55. Did you ever see a report of the test results? If so, what did it say?

56. Were the results used at trial?

57. Do you know what lab or individual conducted the test?

PART VII: CASE MATERIALS

58. Please check those documents that you can make available to us.

Hearing Transcript(s) _____

Trial Transcript(s) _____

Police Report(s) (Please describe) _____

Laboratory Report(s) (Please describe) _____

Witness Statements (Please describe) _____

Other Discovery (Please describe) _____

Appellate Briefs:

Appellant (defense) _____

Respondent (prosecution) _____

Appellate opinion _____

Probation/Sentencing Report _____

If you have checked Laboratory Report(s), Appellate Briefs (for Appellant or Respondent), or Probation/Sentencing Report, please send these documents to us along with your questionnaire. PLEASE DO NOT SEND US ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS UNLESS WE WRITE BACK TO YOU AND SPECIFICALLY ASK FOR THEM.

59. If these documents are in the possession of a friend or relative and you would like us to contact that person directly, please provide us with the name, address, and phone number of the person who has them:

60. Please provide the name and address of the person to whom we should return your documents at the conclusion of your case screening. (If you list no one, we will return them to you.)

PART VIII: ABOUT YOU

61. What is your first language?

62. What is the highest grade you completed in school?

63. List any schools you attended after high school:

64. Did you have Special Education issues? ___ (Yes) ___ (No). If Yes, please describe.

65. Have you ever received mental health treatment? ___ (Yes) ___ (No). If Yes, please describe.

66. Prior to this conviction, had you ever been convicted of another crime? If yes, please list the dates and offenses of which you were convicted:

67. Were you employed at the time of your arrest? If so, please provide the name, address, and telephone number of your employer:

68. Please provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of family and friends who might have information regarding your case:

69. Do we have your permission to contact these people to discuss the specific details of your case?
Yes_____ No_____

If not, why not?

PART IX: POST-CONVICTION EVIDENCE

70. Has a victim or witness come forward to after your conviction to say that you are innocent?
Yes_____ No_____

71. If yes, who? How and why has his or her story changed?

72. Has any other way to prove your innocence developed after your trial? (For example, has someone else confessed to the crime?) If so, please describe.

73. Do you know whether any physical evidence is still available for testing? Yes_____ No_____

Where is it?

Who has it?

74. Would you be willing to submit to a DNA test, knowing that the test could confirm your guilt or innocence in this case and potentially other cases?

75. Do you know who committed the crime(s) of which you were convicted? Yes_____ No_____

76. If yes, please provide that person's name and whereabouts (if known):

77. How do you know that this person is the true perpetrator?

78. Is there anything else you would like us to know that could help us prove your innocence?

Date _____

Signature _____