Name of Inmate: _____
Case #:_____
Date of completion: _____

DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS INNOCENCE PROJECT ATTORNEY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FORM

Your client is seeking the assistance of the Downstate Illinois Innocence Project.

The Downstate Illinois Innocence Project provides investigative and legal research services to attorneys representing inmates who the attorneys and the Project have good reason to believe did not commit the crimes for which they were convicted. The Project involves degree seeking undergraduate students, under the supervision of the inmate's attorney and Project faculty and/or a criminal investigator, in providing these services. The Project does not provide legal representation directly to defendants or inmates.

To receive the assistance the Project, your client's case must meet all of these guidelines:

- Your client must be seeking to establish his/her actual innocence of the crime(s) for which he/she is incarcerated. More specifically, we take only those cases in which there appears to be a significant chance that substantial evidence can be found to prove in inmate innocent. Further, once we have agreed to work on a case, we reserve the right to withdraw for any reason, including an inability to prove the claim of actual innocence.
- Because we do not provide direct legal representation, you must be willing to have the Project work with you by assigning tasks to project investigators and students and to help supervise the work/work products of those investigators and students.
- Your client must have been convicted of a felony crime committed in downstate Illinois (counties below Interstate 80).
- Your client must be incarcerated and have at least 48 months remaining on his/her sentence. The substantial amount of time involved in investigation and follow-up activity makes it impractical to provide assistance on under cases where the remaining prison time is less than that.
- Finally, the Project does not provide assistance to individuals who are awaiting trial or who are only claiming that his or her rights were violated. The program usually cannot help in the following situations: (1) where a defendant admits to killing or assaulting someone, but claims that it was done in self-defense; (2) where a defendant admits to sexual contact with a person, but claims that the person consented to the contact; (3) where a defendant was convicted as an accessory (or as a party-to-the-crime) and seeks to show that he or she did not play a major role in the crime.

If you believe your client's case meets all of these guidelines and you would like to receive the assistance of the Downstate Illinois Innocence Project, please complete this form and return it to us at this address:

Downstate Illinois Innocence Project
Institute for Legal, Administrative, and Policy Studies
University of Illinois at Springfield
One University Plaza, MS PAC 451
Springfield, IL. 62703-5407.

If you would like to obtain more information before returning the form, please contact us at 217-206-6358.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
The Downstate Illinois Innocence Project

Please fill out all questions on the form.

Do you agree with your client's request for the assistance of the Downstate Illinois Innocence Project? **Yes** or **No**

(If you have answered yes please continue answering the remaining questions.)

1). Please provide the following information about yourself:
Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
Telephone: _____
E-mail:_____
Fax:: _____

2). Please explain why you think the Downstate Illinois Innocence Project can be of assistance to you.
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

_____
_____

3). Are any of the following issues present in your client's case:? **(Check the one(s) that apply):**

- ❑ The absence of physical evidence linking the inmate to the crime.
- ❑ Problems with the reliability of eye-witnesses.
- ❑ Lack of credibility of an inmate's confession.
- ❑ The inconsistency of the nature of the crime as compared to the background of the inmate.
- ❑ The possibility of alternative suspect.
- ❑ The availability of new evidence exonerating the inmate.
- ❑ Police or prosecutorial misconduct.
- ❑ Ineffective assistance of counsel, including the failure to investigate.
- ❑ The defendant has consistently maintained his/her innocence of the crime.

4). How long have you been working on the case and what is the nature of your involvement?

_____
_____

5). What is the current status in this case?

_____
_____
_____
_____

6). Are their any other attorneys, investigators, or others involved with the case other than yourself?
If so, provide the following information about them.
Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
Telephone:_____
E-mail:_____
Fax _____

Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
Telephone:_____
E-mail:_____

Fax _____

7) Please place a checkmark next to the items that exist in your client's case. (**Please do not send anything until we specifically request it.)**

- ❑ Hearing Transcript(s) (e.g., *confession suppression, evidence suppression, scientific admissibility)*
- ❑ Trial Transcript(s)
- ❑ Police Report(s) *(Please describe)*
- ❑ Laboratory Reports *(Please describe)*
- ❑ Appellate Briefs:
  - o Appellant (defense)
  - o Respondent (prosecution)
  - o Secondary Appellate Briefs:
    - ▪ Appellant (defense)
    - ▪ Respondent (prosecution)
- ❑ Post-Conviction Briefs: D
  - o Defendant's
  - o Prosecution's
- ❑ Habeas Corpus Briefs:

Other materials (Please describe):

_____
_____
_____
_____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

Please Return to:
Downstate Innocence Project
Institute for Legal, Administrative, and Policy studies
University of Illinois at Springfield
One University Plaza, MS PAC 451
Springfield, Illinois. 62703-5407.