

Thank you for your interest in the Innocence Project. The Innocence Project is a national litigation and public policy organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted individuals through DNA testing and reforming the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice.

The Innocence Project **ONLY** considers cases that are:

1. Postconviction – the trial and direct appeal are over and final.
2. There is physical evidence that, if subjected to DNA testing, will prove that the defendant is actually innocent. This means that physical evidence was collected – for example blood, bodily fluids, clothing, hair – and if that evidence can be found and tested, the test will prove that the defendant could not have committed the crime. Examples of crimes where biological evidence can prove innocence include sexual assaults, homicides, assaults with close physical contact or a struggle and some robberies – where physical evidence was collected that was worn by or in contact with the actual perpetrator.
3. The defendant must have been convicted of a crime. We do not review claims where the defendant was wrongfully suspected, arrested or charged, but not actually convicted.
4. The crime occurred in the United States, but not in: Arizona, California, Illinois, Michigan, or Ohio. Our intake is currently closed to these states. Please write to the local innocence organizations in those States for assistance.

The Innocence Project does **NOT** review claims where DNA testing cannot prove innocence and does not handle the following types of cases:

1. Consent / Transaction: The defendant claims that there was no crime because the victim consented to the events (e.g. agreed to sex) and/or received some form of payment in exchange for the activity (e.g. prostitution, drug transaction)
2. Self-defense / Justification: The defendant admits to causing the injury/death but believes the acts were justified cause the defendant acted in self-defense or to protect other people.
3. Sustained Abuse: The defendant is accused of crime against the victim(s) that happened more than once and over a period of time (e.g., allegations of long-term sexual abuse of a family member).
4. Illegal Possession / Distribution of any controlled substance: The defendant is only challenging a possession or distribution charge.
5. RICO / Hobbs Act: The defendant has been charged under the RICO or the Hobbs Act.
6. DWI or DUI: The defendant was convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI) or driving under the influence (DUI).

7. **Fraud / Identify Theft / Forgery:** The defendant was only convicted of one or more of these crimes.
8. **Stalking / Harassment:** The primary charges against the defendant involve stalking and/or harassment.
9. **Sentencing Reduction / Overcharged:** The defendant wants to challenge the charge or length of sentence but does not claim innocence.

To have your case for considered, please complete the attached Intake Form and mail it to:

Innocence Project  
Intake Department  
40 Worth St, Suite 701  
New York, NY 10013

No other documents should be submitted for initial review. The Innocence Project is not equipped to handle telephone or e-mail applications. We wish you the best of luck with your case.

Sincerely,

The Innocence Project Intake Team

## Innocence Project: Request for Assistance

**Directions:** The Innocence Project prefers that all requests for assistance come directly from the defendant, when possible. Please print this form, ask the defendant to answer **ALL** of the following questions and send it to the address below.

Innocence Project  
Intake Department  
40 Worth St, Suite 701  
New York, NY 10013

Name of defendant:	Inmate number:
Current address of defendant:	Crime(s) convicted of:
Date(s) of the crime(s):	Date of arrest:
Date crime was reported:	Date of conviction:
City, county, and state of conviction:	Sentence received:

In your submission, please also provide answers to the following:

1. The basic facts of the crime. What happened? When? Where? What were you accused of doing?
2. Where were you at the time of the crime(s)? What were you doing?
3. Do you know the victim(s)? If so, how do you know the victim(s)? What did the victim(s) say happened?
4. Are you claiming innocence of all the charges/convictions? If not, please explain.