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**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241**

**Instructions**

1. **Who Should Use This Form.** You should use this form if
  - you are a federal prisoner and you wish to challenge the way your sentence is being carried out (*for example, you claim that the Bureau of Prisons miscalculated your sentence or failed to properly award good time credits*);
  - you are in federal or state custody because of something other than a judgment of conviction (*for example, you are in pretrial detention or are awaiting extradition*); or
  - you are alleging that you are illegally detained in immigration custody.
  
2. **Who Should Not Use This Form.** You should not use this form if
  - you are challenging the validity of a federal judgment of conviction and sentence (*these challenges are generally raised in a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255*);
  - you are challenging the validity of a state judgment of conviction and sentence (*these challenges are generally raised in a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254*); or
  - you are challenging a final order of removal in an immigration case (*these challenges are generally raised in a petition for review directly with a United States Court of Appeals*).
  
3. **Preparing the Petition.** The petition must be typed or neatly written, and you must sign and date it under penalty of perjury. **A false statement may lead to prosecution.**
  
4. **Answer all the questions.** You do not need to cite law. You may submit additional pages if necessary. If you do not fill out the form properly, you will be asked to submit additional or correct information. If you want to submit any legal arguments, you must submit them in a separate memorandum. Be aware that any such memorandum may be subject to page limits set forth in the local rules of the court where you file this petition. If you attach additional pages, number the pages and identify which section of the petition is being continued. All filings must be submitted on paper sized 8½ by 11 inches. **Do not use the back of any page.**
  
5. **Supporting Documents.** In addition to your petition, you must send to the court a copy of the decisions you are challenging and a copy of any briefs or administrative remedy forms filed in your case.
  
6. **Required Filing Fee.** You must include the \$5 filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). If you are unable to pay the filing fee, you must ask the court for permission to proceed in forma pauperis – that is, as a person who cannot pay the filing fee – by submitting the documents that the court requires.
  
7. **Submitting Documents to the Court.** Mail your petition and \_\_\_\_\_ copies to the clerk of the United States District Court for the district and division in which you are confined. For a list of districts and divisions, see 28 U.S.C. §§ 81-131. All copies must be identical to the original. Copies may be legibly handwritten.  
  
If you want a file-stamped copy of the petition, you must enclose an additional copy of the petition and ask the court to file-stamp it and return it to you.
  
8. **Change of Address.** You must immediately notify the court in writing of any change of address. If you do not, the court may dismiss your case.



- Pretrial detention
- Immigration detention
- Detainer
- The validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed (for example, sentence beyond the statutory maximum or improperly calculated under the sentencing guidelines)
- Disciplinary proceedings
- Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Provide more information about the decision or action you are challenging:

- (a) Name and location of the agency or court: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Decision or action you are challenging (for disciplinary proceedings, specify the penalties imposed):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Date of the decision or action: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Earlier Challenges of the Decision or Action**

7. **First appeal**

Did you appeal the decision, file a grievance, or seek an administrative remedy?

- Yes                       No

(a) If “Yes,” provide:

- (1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) If you answered “No,” explain why you did not appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **Second appeal**

After the first appeal, did you file a second appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

- Yes                       No

(a) If “Yes,” provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_

(6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) If you answered “No,” explain why you did not file a second appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. **Third appeal**

After the second appeal, did you file a third appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

Yes  No

(a) If “Yes,” provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_

(6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) If you answered “No,” explain why you did not file a third appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255**

In this petition, are you challenging the validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed?

Yes  No

If “Yes,” answer the following:

(a) Have you already filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 that challenged this conviction or sentence?

Yes  No

If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Case number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(b) Have you ever filed a motion in a United States Court of Appeals under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), seeking permission to file a second or successive Section 2255 motion to challenge this conviction or sentence?

- Yes  No

If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Case number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(c) Explain why the remedy under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is inadequate or ineffective to challenge your conviction or sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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

11. **Appeals of immigration proceedings**

Does this case concern immigration proceedings?

- Yes  No

If "Yes," provide:

- (a) Date you were taken into immigration custody: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Date of the removal or reinstatement order: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Did you file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals?

- Yes  No

If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Case number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(d) Did you appeal the decision to the United States Court of Appeals?

- Yes                       No

If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Case number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**12. Other appeals**

Other than the appeals you listed above, have you filed any other petition, application, or motion about the issues raised in this petition?

- Yes                       No

If "Yes," provide:

- (a) Kind of petition, motion, or application: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Name of the authority, agency, or court: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_

(d) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_

(e) Result: \_\_\_\_\_

(f) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_

(g) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Grounds for Your Challenge in This Petition**

13. State every ground (reason) that supports your claim that you are being held in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. Attach additional pages if you have more than four grounds. State the facts supporting each ground. Any legal arguments must be submitted in a separate memorandum.

**GROUND ONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(a) Supporting facts (*Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.*):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Did you present Ground One in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes                       No

**GROUND TWO:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(a) Supporting facts (*Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.*):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Did you present Ground Two in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes                       No

**GROUND THREE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(a) Supporting facts (*Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.*):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Did you present Ground Three in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes                       No

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**GROUND FOUR:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(a) Supporting facts (*Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.*):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Did you present Ground Four in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes                       No

14. If there are any grounds that you did not present in all appeals that were available to you, explain why you did not: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Request for Relief**

15. State exactly what you want the court to do: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Declaration Under Penalty Of Perjury**

If you are incarcerated, on what date did you place this petition in the prison mail system:

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I declare under penalty of perjury that I am the petitioner, I have read this petition or had it read to me, and the information in this petition is true and correct. I understand that a false statement of a material fact may serve as the basis for prosecution for perjury.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Petitioner*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Attorney or other authorized person, if any*

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

_____ )	
<i>Plaintiff/Petitioner</i> )	
v. )	Civil Action No.
_____ )	
<i>Defendant/Respondent</i> )	

## APPLICATION TO PROCEED IN DISTRICT COURT WITHOUT PREPAYING FEES OR COSTS (Short Form)

I am a plaintiff or petitioner in this case and declare that I am unable to pay the costs of these proceedings and that I am entitled to the relief requested.

In support of this application, I answer the following questions under penalty of perjury:

1. *If incarcerated.* I am being held at: \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 If employed there, or have an account in the institution, I have attached to this document a statement certified by the appropriate institutional officer showing all receipts, expenditures, and balances during the last six months for any institutional account in my name. I am also submitting a similar statement from any other institution where I was incarcerated during the last six months.

2. *If not incarcerated.* If I am employed, my employer's name and address are:

My gross pay or wages are: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ , and my take-home pay or wages are: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  
(specify pay period) \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. *Other Income.* In the past 12 months, I have received income from the following sources (check all that apply):

- |     |  |                              |                             |
|-----|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) | Business, profession, or other self-employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (b) | Rent payments, interest, or dividends          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (c) | Pension, annuity, or life insurance payments   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (d) | Disability, or worker's compensation payments  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (e) | Gifts, or inheritances                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (f) | Any other sources                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

*If you answered "Yes" to any question above, describe below or on separate pages each source of money and state the amount that you received and what you expect to receive in the future.*

4. Amount of money that I have in cash or in a checking or savings account: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. Any automobile, real estate, stock, bond, security, trust, jewelry, art work, or other financial instrument or thing of value that I own, including any item of value held in someone else's name (*describe the property and its approximate value*):

6. Any housing, transportation, utilities, or loan payments, or other regular monthly expenses (*describe and provide the amount of the monthly expense*):

7. Names (or, if under 18, initials only) of all persons who are dependent on me for support, my relationship with each person, and how much I contribute to their support:

8. Any debts or financial obligations (*describe the amounts owed and to whom they are payable*):

9. I have been and/or currently am party to a lawsuit.  Yes  No

If you answered "Yes," please list below and/or on separate pages the cause number, name of court, and captioned names of the parties for each lawsuit you have been a party to in the last 10 years. Also describe the type (civil, criminal, administrative, etc.), status (whether the matter is still pending), and the result (verdict, settlement, dismissed pretrial, voluntarily dismissed, etc.) for each suit.

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*Declaration:* I declare under penalty of perjury that the above information is true and understand that a false statement may result in a dismissal of my claims.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name*

*(More)*

**CERTIFICATION OF PRISONER’S INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNT BALANCE:** An authorized prison official must complete the certification below and furnish a certified copy of your institutional account statement showing all deposits, withdrawals, and balances for the prior six-month period, to be filed with this application.

I certify that the prisoner named herein has the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on account at \_\_\_\_\_ correctional institution, where he is presently confined.

I further certify that during the prior six-month period, the prisoner’s average monthly account balance was \$ \_\_\_\_\_; and that the average amount deposited monthly in the account during the prior six-month period was \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature and Title of Authorized Prison Official*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*