

**Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241
By a Person in Federal Custody**

Instructions – Read Carefully

1. To petition must be legibly handwritten or typewritten, signed by the petitioner and subscribed to under penalty of perjury as being true and correct. Any false statement of a material fact must be answered concisely in the proper space on the form. Where more room is needed to answer any question, please list them on a separate sheet of paper.
2. If briefs or arguments are submitted, they should be submitted in the form of a separate memorandum.
3. Upon receipt of a fee of \$5.00, your petition will be filed if it is in proper order.
4. If you do not have the necessary filing fee, you may request permission to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Please complete the enclosed affidavit setting forth information establishing your inability to prepare the fees and costs.
5. Your attention is directed to the fact that you must include all grounds for relief and all facts supporting such grounds for relief in the petition.
6. When the petition is complete, it must be mailed to the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The address is listed below:

United States District Court
Eastern District of Virginia
701 East Broad
Suite 3000
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3528

7. DO NOT MAIL THE FORMS TO A SPECIFIC JUDGE.
8. A petition that does not conform to these instructions will be returned with a notation as to the deficiency.

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.**

All questions must be answered clearly and concisely in the space on the form. If needed, you may attach additional pages or file a memorandum in support of the petition. If you attach additional pages, number the pages and identify which section of the petition is being continued. Note that some courts have page limitations. All filings must be submitted on paper sized 8½ by 11 inches. **Do not use the back of any page.**

4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Submitting Documents to the Court.** Mail your petition 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 a self-addressed stamped envelope and an additional copy of the petition and ask the court to file-stamp it and return it to you.

7. **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.

Decision or Action You Are Challenging

5. What are you challenging in this petition:
- How your sentence is being carried out, calculated, or credited by prison or parole authorities (for example, revocation or calculation of good time credits)
 - 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: _____

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.

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

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:

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

IN FORMA PAUPERIS AFFIDAVIT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

_____,
Plaintiff/Petitioner,

V. Civil Action No. _____

_____,
Defendant(s)/Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT
OF REQUEST
TO PROCEED
IN FORMA PAUPERIS

I, _____, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I am the petitioner in the above entitled case; I bring this _____ (identify the nature of the action); that in support of my motion to proceed without being required to prepay fees, costs or give security therefor, I state that because of my poverty I am unable to pay the costs of said proceeding or give security therefor; that I believe I am entitled to relief.

I further swear that the responses which I have made to questions and instructions below are true.

1. Are you presently employed? Yes () No ()

a. If the answer is "Yes", state the amount of salary or wages per month, and give the name and address of your employer.

b. If the answer is "No", state the date of last employment and is the amount of salary and wages per month which you received.

2. Have you received within the past twelve months any money from any of the following sources?

a. Business or profession or form of self-employment? Yes () No ()

b. Rent payments, interest, and dividends? Yes () No ()

c. Pensions, annuities, or life insurances payments? Yes () No ()

d. Gifts or inheritances? Yes () No ()

e. Any other sources? Yes () No ()

If the answer to any of the above is "Yes", describe each source of money and state the amount received from each during the past twelve months.

3. What is the current balance in your prison spend account? _____
Do you have any money in any other prison account or regular bank account?
Yes () No ()

If you answered "Yes", identify the account(s) and state the balance(s).

4. Do you own any real estate, stocks, bonds, notes, automobiles, or other valuable property (excluding ordinary household furnishings and clothing)?
Yes () No ()

If the answer is "Yes", describe the property and state its approximate value.

5. List the persons who are dependent upon you for support, state your relationship to those persons, and indicate how much you contribute toward their support.

6. List all of your prior cases that were dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted, i.e. pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. 12(b) (6).

7. Complete #7 **only if your case has been dismissed**. List the issues you intend to present on appeal.

The failure to complete the **entire** affidavit will result in the immediate termination of the action. If more room is needed for any response, please attach additional pages.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on _____

(Date)

(Signature)