

# STATE PRISONER SELF-HELP PACKET

## FEDERAL HABEAS CORPUS PETITION - 28 U.S.C. § 2254

(Persons in State Custody under a State Court Conviction)

### Legal Resources:

28 U.S.C. §§ 2241--2254  
Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases  
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure  
Local Rules for the United States District Court for the District of Idaho

### This Packet Contains the Following:

1. These Instructions for filing a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (state custody).
  2. Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus form (includes request for appointment of counsel).
  3. Application for In Forma Pauperis Status.
  4. Statement of Trust Fund Account form.
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## INSTRUCTIONS

### **I Preliminary Considerations before Filing a Habeas Corpus Petition**

Prisoners being held under a state criminal conviction may file a federal petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 to challenge the validity of their conviction or sentence. The object of a habeas corpus petition is to obtain release from custody. When the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) became effective on April 24, 1996, many changes occurred to the habeas corpus process, such as the addition of a statute of limitation and a strict standard for relief. Those changes are incorporated in these instructions. In addition to these instructions, you should consult those legal resources cited herein above, and any others which may be relevant to your case.

#### **A. Federal Claim**

The petition must allege that the conviction or sentence was in violation of the United States Constitution, a United States Supreme Court case law, a federal law, or a United States treaty. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). The federal court does not have jurisdiction to consider claims which are based solely on state law or on the state constitution.

#### **B. Habeas Petitions Should Not Contain Prison Conditions Claims**

Habeas corpus is not the appropriate cause of action if you want to challenge the conditions of confinement or obtain money damages. For example, claims for improper medical care or retaliation for assertion of First Amendment rights should be brought in a civil rights lawsuit. Idaho inmates should also be aware that federal habeas corpus proceedings are different from state habeas corpus proceedings.

### C. Exhaustion of State Remedies Requirement

Generally, the federal court cannot grant relief on habeas corpus claims unless the Idaho Supreme Court has first had an opportunity to rule on the same federal claims. This is called *exhaustion of state court remedies*. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(A). The Supreme Court explained the exhaustion requirement in *O’Sullivan v. Boerckel*, 526 U.S. 838, 845, 119 S.Ct. 1728, 1732 (1999) <sup>1</sup>:

Because the exhaustion doctrine is designed to give the state courts a full and fair opportunity to resolve federal constitutional claims before those claims are presented to the federal courts, we conclude that state prisoners must give the state courts one full opportunity to resolve any constitutional issues by invoking *one complete round* of the State’s established appellate review process (emphasis added).

Claims can be properly exhausted, as explained in *O’Sullivan v. Boerckel*, or they can be improperly exhausted. Claims are improperly exhausted, and deemed *procedurally defaulted*, when either the state courts refused to hear the claims because they were presented in a procedurally improper manner,<sup>2</sup> or because it is too late to bring the claims in state court at the present time. The federal court cannot hear the merits of procedurally defaulted claims unless the petitioner makes a showing that there was a legitimate cause for the default and prejudice resulted, or a showing that the petitioner is actually innocent of the conviction or sentence.

### D. Statute of Limitations Considerations

28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1) provides for a one-year statute of limitation for federal habeas corpus petitions. To determine your statute of limitation, you must determine three factors: (1) when your statute of limitation began running; (2) when it was tolled during the pendency of properly-filed state court post-conviction actions under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(2); and (3) when it ends, by subtracting any time the statute was so tolled.

To determine the date your statute began running, consult the text of 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1). For example, the most commonly-used statute of limitation beginning date is Subsection (A): “the date on which the judgment became final by the conclusion of direct review or the expiration of the time for

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<sup>1</sup>There are two rarely used exceptions to exhaustion: first, when there is an absence of available State corrective process; and, second, when circumstances exist that render such process ineffective to protect the rights of the applicant. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(B).

<sup>2</sup>Procedurally improper ways to present claims can include the following: presenting a claim directly to the Idaho Supreme Court in a habeas corpus petition asserting original jurisdiction except under extraordinary circumstances, presenting a claim outside of the statute of limitation period, presenting a claim in a post-conviction relief petition that should have been presented on direct review, or presenting a post-conviction relief petition to the state district court and failing to appeal the denial of that petition to the Idaho Supreme Court, or failing to file a Petition for Review in the Idaho Supreme Court if an appeal was decided by the Idaho Court of Appeals.

seeking such review.”<sup>3</sup>

*Tolling* means that a statute of limitation stops running for a certain period of time. To determine whether your statute was “tolled,” or stopped running during periods of time in which a properly filed application for State postconviction or other collateral review with respect to the pertinent judgment or claim was pending, consult 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(2). The Ninth Circuit has determined that the statute of limitations is **not** tolled, or in other words, that it continues to run between “the time a final decision is issued on direct state appeal and the time the first state post-conviction or other collateral review application is filed because there is no case ‘pending’ during that interval.” *Nino v. Galaza*, 183 F.3d 1003, 1006 (9th Cir.1999). For example, if a prisoner does not file a state collateral challenge until 355 days after his or her direct state appeal is final,<sup>4</sup> then he or she will have used up 355 days of his federal habeas corpus statute of limitations under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1). The filing of the state collateral challenge will toll or stop the federal habeas corpus statute of limitations while that action is pending, through appeal of that action to the Idaho Supreme Court. **When that action is final,<sup>5</sup> the one-year federal habeas corpus statute of limitations will start running again, but the “clock” is not reset at one year, it starts at the number of days left.** In this example, the prisoner would have only 10 days in which to file because he or she used 355 days between the direct appeal and the first state collateral challenge.

It is important to know that only “properly-filed” state court post-conviction or other collateral review applications will toll the federal habeas corpus statute of limitations. In *Artuz v. Bennett*, 531 U.S. 4, 121 S.Ct. 361 (2000), the United States Supreme Court determined that a *properly filed* application which tolls the statute of limitation is defined as follows:

An application is “filed,” as that term is commonly understood, when it is delivered to, and accepted by, the appropriate court officer for placement into the official record.... And an application is “properly filed” when its delivery and acceptance are in

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<sup>3</sup>If no direct appeal was filed, the one-year statute of limitation begins running 42 days after the judgment of conviction was entered. If a direct appeal was filed, the one-year statute of limitation begins to run on the expiration of the 90-day period “within which [a petitioner] could have filed a petition for a writ of certiorari from the United States Supreme Court” following direct appeal, whether or not one was filed. *Bowen v. Roe*, 188 F.3d 1157, 1159 (9th Cir.1999). The additional 90-day certiorari period, however, does **not** apply to post-conviction relief actions. *Nino v. Galaza*, 183 F.3d 1003, 1006 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999).

<sup>4</sup>See Footnote 3 for information on calculation of “finality” of direct appeal review.

<sup>5</sup>The Ninth Circuit has determined that, when a state supreme court rule provides that a state supreme court opinion is not final until a number of days after the decision is rendered, the case is still “pending” during that time period for purposes of calculating tolling under § 2244(d)(2). *See Lott v. Mueller*, 304 F.3d 918 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002). In Idaho, Idaho Appellate Rule 38(b) provides: “Opinions shall become final 21 days after the date of the last of the following events: (1) the announcement of the opinion; (2) the announcement of the opinion on rehearing; (3) the announcement of a modified opinion without a rehearing.” When the “opinion has become final in accordance with this rule, the Clerk of the Supreme Court shall issue and file a remittitur.” Idaho Appellate Rule 38(c).

compliance with the applicable laws and rules governing filings. These usually prescribe, for example, the form of the document, the time limits upon its delivery, the court and office in which it must be lodged, and the requisite filing fee.

531 U.S. at 8-9, 121 S.Ct. 361 at 363-64 (citations omitted). Under *Artuz v. Bennett*, if the federal court finds that a prior state court action was improperly filed, that state court action will not be deemed to have tolled or stopped the statute of limitations, and the federal court may deem the federal petition untimely, as a result. It is also important to note that prior federal habeas corpus petitions dismissed without prejudice do not toll or stop the statute of limitation for a later petition. *Duncan v. Walker*, 121 S.Ct. 2120, 2128 (construing 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(2)).

You should also be aware that prisoners are usually entitled to the benefit of the "mailbox rule," which provides that a legal document is deemed filed on the date a petitioner delivers it to the prison authorities for filing by mail, rather than the date it is actually filed with the clerk of court. See *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266, 108 S.Ct. 2379 (1988).

If you think you missed your statute of limitation, you may ask the Court to apply equitable tolling to your case. *Equitable tolling* allows the Court to stop or toll the statute of limitation during time periods during which circumstances existed in which it was impossible to file your petition. To qualify for equitable tolling, a petitioner must show that extraordinary circumstances beyond his or her control made it impossible to file the habeas petition in time. *Miles v. Prunty*, 187 F.3d 1104 (9th Cir.1999) (statute of limitation is equitably tolled where prisoner handed his habeas corpus petition to prison officials in a timely manner, but they failed to draw a check for the filing fee on his account and failed to file it in time, events over which the prisoner had no control). Equitable tolling has also been applied where a plaintiff is prevented from asserting his claim by some kind of wrongful conduct on the part of the opposing party. *Alvarez-Machain v. United States*, 107 F.3d 696, 700 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996).

#### E. Successive Petition Considerations

You should be aware that if you do not bring all federal claims related to a particular judgment in a single federal habeas corpus action, you will not be able to bring a second action without first obtaining permission to do so from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b). (Note: you do not need to obtain Ninth Circuit permission if your prior federal petition was dismissed **without prejudice**.) Your facility should have a Ninth Circuit Application to File a Second or Successive Petition form if you need one.

#### F. Proper Respondent

The proper respondent in a habeas corpus action is your current custodian, who is the warden of the facility where you are held. Do not name the "State of Idaho" or the governor. If you are held out of state on an Idaho conviction, you can name the Idaho Attorney General as respondent.

## II **Completing the Habeas Corpus Petition**

Complete the habeas corpus petition according to the directions on the form which is enclosed in this packet. Your petition should be legibly handwritten in black ink or typed. If you do not have a black pen, request one from staff.

For each claim, it is important that you state the federal legal ground under which your claim arises, such as a constitutional provision, United States Supreme Court case, federal law, or treaty of the United States. The claim must be the same claim you raised in each level of the Idaho state court system. Stating the federal ground for your claim should be done very briefly. You should not make extensive legal arguments anywhere in your petition, nor should you file a legal memorandum or brief with your petition. Importantly, the petition should include all of the facts which support your claim.

You must sign the petition, indicate how you mailed your petition, and complete the declaration under penalty of perjury. Notarization is not required. You must be sure to send a “Notice of Change of Address” to the Clerk of Court each time you change addresses in order to be sure that you receive all Court orders and correspondence in this matter.

### **III Payment of Filing Fee or Request to Proceed In Forma Pauperis**

Your petition for writ of habeas corpus must be accompanied by a payment of the \$5.00 filing fee, or an “Application for In Forma Pauperis Status.” In forma pauperis status allows you to pay the fee over time; it is not a waiver of the fee. If you wish to proceed in forma pauperis, you must file the following: (1) “Application for In Forma Pauperis Status”; and (2) prison trust account statement showing the current status of your prison trust account. You will need to send the prison trust account statement form to your institution’s accounting office as soon as possible, so it can be completed and returned to you.

### **IV Requests for Appointment of Counsel**

If you wish to request appointment of counsel, indicate that directly in Part Nine of the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus form; do not file a separate motion or affidavit. You should state any particular reasons why you believe you are entitled to counsel. The Court does not appoint counsel in habeas corpus matters except under extraordinary circumstances. There is no constitutional right to counsel in a habeas corpus action.

### **V Filing Your Action**

To file your action, you will need to send the following to the Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court, 550 West Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83724:

1. the signed original habeas corpus petition;
2. either the \$5.00 filing fee or the “Application for In Forma Pauperis Status” and trust account statement; and
3. a copy of each of the above documents.

You must include one copy of the petition, which will be served upon the respondent if the Court later authorizes your petition to proceed. **You do not need to serve the respondent or send respondent or the attorney general a copy of your petition when it is filed.** If you would like to have a *conformed copy* of filed documents, which is a copy that bears the Clerk’s filing date stamp to let you know the exact date a document was filed, then you must include an additional copy of each document (2 copies total), along with a note or letter and a self-addressed envelope requesting that the Clerk return a conformed copy to you. You should always keep a copy of the petition and other

documents you have filed for your own records. All copies of the petition must be identical to the original.

## **VI Initial Review**

After you file your federal habeas corpus petition, a federal district or magistrate judge reviews the petition to determine whether it is subject to summary dismissal. See 28 U.S.C. § 2243. Summary dismissal is appropriate where “it plainly appears from the face of the petition and any exhibits annexed to it that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court.” Rule 4 of the Rules Governing § 2254 Cases. Summary dismissal is also appropriate where the allegations in the petition are vague, conclusory, palpably incredible, patently frivolous, or false. Summary dismissal is also appropriate where it is evident from the petition that the claims have been procedurally defaulted.

The Court’s initial review order will determine whether you can proceed. Your case cannot proceed until this order is issued. Do not file a motion for default judgment. Some habeas cases are not allowed to proceed after the initial review order; your case may be dismissed if it is clear that amendment could not cure the deficiencies. You may be given an opportunity to amend the petition to correct any deficiencies. Or, your case may be served upon the Idaho Attorney General on behalf of the respondent, allowing the case to proceed in part or in full. If your case is authorized to proceed, the initial review order will include a disposition schedule for your case.

Even if the initial review order grants a petitioner the opportunity to proceed in the case, the respondent can still file a motion for summary dismissal. The Court usually does not have access to the full state court record when it performs its initial review, and the full record may reveal grounds for summary dismissal. The initial review process may take several months due to the Court’s heavy caseload. Do not continue to file additional documents in your case while you are waiting for the Court’s initial review order.

## **VII Pleadings, Papers and Discovery**

After your case has been authorized to proceed, the Court will order the respondent to answer or otherwise plead in response to the petition. The respondent will then file an answer or a pre-answer motion requesting dismissal of part or all of your case. Do not file a motion for default judgment if a pre-answer motion is filed rather than an answer. A pre-answer motion is permitted by the Rules.

The Idaho District Court generally does not allow you to file a traverse in federal habeas corpus actions. A *traverse* is a reply to the answer. It is better to make your arguments in a response to a dispositive motion.

The Rules generally do not permit discovery to be undertaken in a habeas corpus case. Exceptions are sometimes made if there is a preliminary procedural issue which has never been resolved by a court. Discovery is not allowed in any case for any reason without a prior Court order. See Rule 6 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases.

You should not file pleadings or papers not authorized by the Rules. For example, affidavits generally are not allowed for the purpose of bringing new evidence into federal court. You do not need to file an affidavit to point to various parts of the record which you believe support your claim. You can do this in a brief in response to a motion to dismiss, or in a statement of disputed material facts in response to

a motion for summary judgment. Affidavits are permissible when preliminary procedural facts are at issue, for example, if you need to declare when and how you filed your habeas corpus petition when the statute of limitation is at issue.

You should not file other unauthorized papers, such as sur-replies (a reply to a reply), a brief in support of habeas corpus petition (briefs should be filed only in support of motions or in response to motions), or a memorandum of law which is not part of a brief in support of or in response to a motion. It is also improper to use a letter rather than a motion to ask the Court to take any action in your case.

You must furnish an original and one copy of anything you file to the Court. In addition, if the Court orders the respondent to respond to the petition, then each time you file a document thereafter, you must also send the respondent's attorney a copy of the document. Each original document (except the original habeas corpus petition) must include a certificate stating the date a copy of the document was mailed to the respondent's attorney and the address to which it was mailed. Any document received which fails to include a certificate of service may be disregarded by the court or returned. An example of a certificate of service is:

I hereby certify that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_,  
a copy of the foregoing pleading/ document was mailed to the following (respondent(s) or  
counsel for respondent(s)) at the following addresses, by delivering it to a prison official  
for mailing under the indigent policy/placing it in a United States postal depository unit  
with postage prepaid (indicate which form of mailing you used):  
(write address of Respondent's attorney here)

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Original Signature of Applicant

## **VIII State Court Record**

The respondent will supply the Court with a copy of those portions of the state court record which the respondent deems relevant to the Court's determination of the claims at hand. For example, if the habeas corpus petition challenges only sentencing, then the respondent would usually supply the Court with only the sentencing records, rather than the entire transcript of the trial. The respondent will not supply you with a copy of your state court record, because it is presumed that you have a copy of your record from your former attorney. If you do not have such a copy, you can request a copy of the record from the Court in a motion for transcripts, stating the particular reasons you need the copy.

If the respondent does not lodge all portions of the state court record which you deem relevant to a determination of the claims, you can file a motion to expand the record under Rule 7 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases.

## **IX Standard of Review and Petitioner's Burden of Proof**

It is important to know that the habeas corpus claims are determined by a federal court's review of the written state court record. The federal habeas corpus action is not an opportunity to re-litigate your criminal case. See 28 U.S.C. § 2241, *et seq.* You bear the burden of proof to show that your conviction or sentence violates the federal Constitution, United States Supreme Court case law, federal law, or a

treaty of the United States.

AEDPA placed new constraints on the power of federal habeas courts to grant relief in habeas corpus cases. Particularly, when a habeas petitioner's claim has been adjudicated on the merits in a state court proceeding, a federal habeas corpus court cannot grant relief unless the state court's adjudication of the claim:

1. resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as determined by the Supreme Court of the United States; or,
2. resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in the State court proceeding.

See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d). In a habeas proceeding, a federal court is required to accept the state court's determination of factual issues as correct, unless the petitioner rebuts the presumption of correctness by clear and convincing evidence. See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(1).

## **X Dispositive Motions**

Habeas corpus petitions are generally decided by *dispositive motion*. A dispositive motion is a motion that has the potential to “dispose of” or end the case. Because habeas corpus actions are determined on the state court record, trials (including jury trials) are not available in habeas corpus proceedings. Two common dispositive motions are the motion to dismiss and the motion for summary judgment.

A *motion to dismiss* is brought under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or pursuant to the Court's duty to dismiss claims upon which a petitioner is not entitled to proceed under 28 U.S.C. § 2243 or Rule 4 of the Rules Governing § 2254 Cases. For example, a motion to dismiss may be brought if, it appears from the state court record, that you have missed your statute of limitation, that you have failed to exhaust your state court remedies, or that you have failed to state a claim upon which habeas corpus relief can be granted.

A *motion for summary judgment* is brought under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. It can include any of the foregoing reasons for dismissal, as well as the reason that the claim should be dismissed on its merits.

To oppose a motion for summary judgment which challenges *the merits* of your claims, you should file a *response*, outlining the facts which are in the state court record which support your opposition, and arguing any applicable law. If the respondent files a *statement of undisputed material facts*, you should file a statement of disputed material facts in response if you dispute any of the facts. You cannot include new facts not found in the state court record unless you meet the provisions of § 2254(e)(2), explained herein below.

To oppose a motion to dismiss or a motion for summary judgment when a preliminary procedural question is at issue, you are entitled to bring forward any facts which are not contained in the state court record. For example, on a statute of limitation issue, if you are asserting that an inadequate prison law



library caused you to miss your filing deadline in this action, that information probably will not be found in the state court record of your criminal conviction. Instead, you will have to submit affidavit(s) and any exhibits or other evidence showing facts supporting your position that the prison law library was inadequate. If the respondent files a statement of undisputed material facts, you may file a statement of disputed material facts in response if you dispute any of the facts. You will also want to file a response, wherein you discuss the evidence you have brought forward and any legal arguments you wish to make.

After you have filed your response to a dispositive motion, the respondent may or may not file a reply. If a reply is filed, you are not entitled to respond to the reply.

The Court will take the motion under advisement and consider everything in the record which is properly before it. You need not request an oral argument on the motion; based upon the briefing, the Court will determine whether a telephonic oral argument on the motion is necessary. After consideration, the Court will issue a written Order. If the dispositive motion is granted, the case usually will be dismissed.

## **XI Evidentiary Hearings**

Evidentiary hearings are held in federal habeas corpus proceedings only very rarely. Generally, the written state court record is sufficient for the Court to determine the outcome of the case. Under § 2254(e)(2), a petitioner is not entitled to produce new evidence or have an evidentiary hearing in federal court on the merits of his case if he or she “has failed to develop the factual basis of a claim in State court proceedings,” as a result of his or her own fault and lack of diligence. *Williams (Michael) v. Taylor*, 529 U.S. 420, 120 S.Ct. 1479 (2000); *Baja v. Ducharme*, 187 F.3d 1075 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999) (new evidence may be presented where a petitioner diligently sought to develop the factual basis of a claim for habeas relief, but was denied the opportunity to do so by the state court). A petitioner who is not entitled to present new evidence must rely on facts contained in the state record to show his or her entitlement to relief.

In some instances, an evidentiary hearing may be required on a preliminary procedural issue, such as determining whether a petitioner is entitled to equitable tolling of the statute of limitations or determining the reason for the petitioner’s procedural default. The subject of the hearing would be to determine whether there are facts which show that the case should be able to proceed or be dismissed. The merits of the claims are not reviewed. The only issue to be determined is whether the petitioner can overcome preliminary procedural problems which would otherwise prevent the court from reviewing the merits of the claims at a later date.

## **XII Judgment and Appeal**

If your case is unsuccessful, then you may wish to appeal it. There is not an automatic right to appeal a habeas corpus case in the federal court system. You may begin the process to seek the right to appeal only after *judgment* has been entered in your case.

You must file a request for a certificate of appealability rather than a notice of appeal within thirty (30) days after entry of the federal district court’s order dismissing or denying relief on your habeas corpus petition, or you will lose your opportunity to seek appeal. The *certificate of appealability* is a request for authorization to file an appeal. This process is unique to federal habeas corpus proceedings. This is filed in the federal district court, not in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

When the denial or dismissal of a habeas corpus petition was based upon the merits of the claims in the petition, you must show that the appeal presents a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c). To satisfy the “substantial showing” standard, you “must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court’s assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong.” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 120 S.Ct. 1595, 1604 (2000).

When the denial or dismissal of a habeas corpus petition was based upon a procedural ground, you must show (1) “that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right,” and (2) “that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling.” *Slack*, 120 S.Ct. at 1604.

### **XIII Requests for In Forma Pauperis Status and Appointment of Counsel on Appeal**

If you have been granted in forma pauperis status in the federal district court, you generally do not need to re-apply for in forma pauperis status on appeal. You may apply to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for an attorney on appeal, but such a request should not be filed in the federal district court; rather, it should be filed in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

### **XIV Conclusion**

The law governing petitions for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 has changed dramatically since 1996. You should consult these statutory changes in 28 U.S.C. §§ 2244, 2253, and 2254, *as amended by*, Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-132, §§ 101-106, 110 Stat. 1214 (Apr. 24, 1996).

Case law interpreting the habeas corpus statute is also constantly changing. The foregoing is not intended to be an exhaustive recitation of the law governing habeas corpus, but it is a starting point. It should not be construed as legal advice.

It is best to consult an attorney to determine whether any subsequent changes to the law have occurred. It is also best to consult an attorney for help in preparation and pursuit of your federal habeas corpus petition. The prison or jail resource center has a list of all attorneys whose phone numbers are programmed into the institutional telephone system. These calls are not monitored. If your attorney is not on the list, you may request that his or her phone number be added to the non-monitored list.

Full Name/Prisoner Number

Complete Mailing Address

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

Petitioner,  
(full name)

VS.

Respondent,  
(full name)

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)
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)
)
)
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)
)

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(to be assigned by the Court at filing)

# PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS  
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2254  
BY A PERSON IN STATE CUSTODY**

## PART ONE: CONVICTION AND/OR SENTENCE UNDER ATTACK

1. Name and location of the state court which entered the judgment of conviction challenged: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date judgment of conviction was entered: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Case number \_\_\_\_\_
4. State each offense of which you were convicted and the sentence for each:

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5. What was your plea? Not Guilty \_\_\_\_ Guilty \_\_\_\_ Nolo Contendere \_\_\_\_
6. If you entered a plea of guilty pursuant to a plea bargain, state the terms and conditions of the agreement:

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7. Kind of trial: Jury \_\_\_\_ Judge only \_\_\_\_ None (pled guilty) \_\_\_\_
8. If you had a trial, did you testify at trial? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
9. Are you presently serving a sentence imposed for a conviction other than the conviction under attack in this motion? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If "Yes," please state details of the other conviction and sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **PART TWO: CLAIMS**

State concisely every claim that you are being held unlawfully. Briefly state the federal constitutional provision, U.S. Supreme Court case, federal law or federal treaty ("federal ground") upon which you bring the claim, but do not make legal arguments. Briefly summarize the facts supporting each claim. If necessary, you may attach extra pages stating additional claims. You should raise in this petition all claims for relief which relate to the conviction under attack. In order to proceed in federal court, you ordinarily must exhaust the remedies available to you in the state courts as to each claim on which you request relief from the federal court.

### **First Claim:**

1. **Federal Ground:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Supporting Facts:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Second Claim:**

1. **Federal Ground:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Supporting Facts:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Third Claim:**

1. **Federal Ground:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Supporting Facts:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PART THREE: CASE HISTORY--DIRECT APPEAL AFTER CONVICTION**

1. Did you file a direct appeal from the judgment of conviction? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
2. Appellate case number: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Case decided by Idaho Court of Appeals \_\_\_\_ or Idaho Supreme Court \_\_\_\_
4. Date of decision: \_\_\_\_\_
5. If case decided by Idaho Court of Appeals, did you file a Petition for Review with the Idaho Supreme Court? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
6. Date Idaho Supreme Court denied review or date of decision: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Specify the claims raised in your direct appeal which are the same as any claims raised in this federal petition:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Attach copies of any Idaho Court of Appeals or Idaho Supreme Court decisions.
9. If you did not file a direct appeal, explain briefly why you did not: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Did you seek permission to file a late appeal? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Not applicable \_\_\_\_

**PART FOUR: CASE HISTORY--POST-CONVICTION PROCEEDINGS**

If you have filed any Rule 35 Motions, Post-Conviction Relief Petitions, State Habeas Corpus Petitions, or other post-conviction applications or motions **with respect to this judgment** in any state court, complete the following for each such motion or petition. If necessary, you may attach extra pages stating additional state court actions you pursued.

1. Name of First Motion or Petition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of court: \_\_\_\_\_  
Specify the claims raised which are the same as any claims raised in this federal petition:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Evidentiary hearing held? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Result: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you appeal? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Appellate case number: \_\_\_\_\_

Case decided by Idaho Court of Appeals \_\_\_\_ or Idaho Supreme Court \_\_\_\_

Date of decision: \_\_\_\_\_

If case decided by Idaho Court of Appeals, did you file a Petition for Review with the Idaho Supreme Court? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Date Idaho Supreme Court denied review or date of decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach copies of any Idaho Court of Appeals or Idaho Supreme Court decisions.

2. Name of Second Motion or Petition: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of court: \_\_\_\_\_

Specify the claims raised which are the same as any claims raised in this federal petition:

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Evidentiary hearing held? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Result: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you appeal? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Appellate case number: \_\_\_\_\_

Case decided by Idaho Court of Appeals \_\_\_\_ or Idaho Supreme Court \_\_\_\_

Date of decision: \_\_\_\_\_

If case decided by Idaho Court of Appeals, did you file a Petition for Review with the Idaho Supreme Court? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Date Idaho Supreme Court denied review or date of decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach copies of any Idaho Court of Appeals or Idaho Supreme Court decisions.

## **PART FIVE: NEW CLAIMS**

If any of the claims listed in this federal petition were not previously presented in any other court, state or federal, state briefly which claims were not so presented, and give your reasons for not presenting them:

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## **PART SIX: PREVIOUS OR PENDING FEDERAL ACTIONS**

Have you previously filed any type of petition, application or motion in a federal court regarding the conviction challenged? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If "Yes," answer the following:

Name and location of court: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of proceeding: \_\_\_\_\_

Claims raised: \_\_\_\_\_

The result: \_\_\_\_\_

Dismissed with prejudice? \_\_\_\_ without prejudice? \_\_\_\_ unknown \_\_\_\_ still pending \_\_\_\_

If action is completed, attach a copy of the court's decision.

## **PART SEVEN: PENDING OR FUTURE STATE COURT ACTIONS**

Do you have any petition, motion or appeal now pending in any state court regarding the conviction or sentence challenged in your federal petition or do you plan to file one in the future? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If "Yes," state the following:

1. Name of the court \_\_\_\_\_
2. Case Number \_\_\_\_\_
3. Type of Proceeding \_\_\_\_\_
5. Claims Raised or to be Raised: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART EIGHT: PRAYER**

Wherefore, Petitioner prays that the court grant him/her such relief to which he/she may be entitled in this proceeding. My preferred relief is \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART NINE: REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY**

I do \_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_ request that an attorney be appointed to represent me in this matter. I believe that I am in need of an attorney for these particular reasons which make it difficult for me to pursue this matter without an attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART TEN: DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY AND SIGNATURE**

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury:

- (1) that he/she is the petitioner in this action, that he/she has read this petition and that the information contained in the petition is true and correct. 28 U.S.C. § 1746; 18 U.S.C. § 1621; and
- (2) that he/she deposited this petition postage prepaid in a United States postal depository unit on \_\_\_\_\_ (date), **OR** that he/she gave the petition to prison officials for mailing and filing with the Clerk of Court under the indigent policy on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) **OR** (specify other)\_\_\_\_\_.

Executed at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Location) (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Petitioner's Original Signature**

**Note: you need not send a copy to Respondent or Respondent's attorney, but, instead provide one copy to the Court. After filing, your petition will be reviewed by a federal judge to determine whether you can proceed. If your case is authorized to proceed, the Court will effect service of the copy upon Respondent's attorney. Thereafter, whenever you file anything in the case, a copy must be mailed to Respondent's attorney.**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name/Prisoner Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Mailing Address

Petitioner

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

_____	)	
Petitioner,	)	CASE NO. _____
(Full name)	)	(to be assigned by the Court upon filing)
	)	
vs.	)	<b>APPLICATION</b>
	)	<b>FOR IN FORMA</b>
	)	<b>PAUPERIS STATUS</b>
_____	)	
Respondent.		

By completing this Application, I am requesting in forma pauperis status rather than paying the filing fee at the time of filing. I understand that, if my request is granted, my fee will not be waived, but I will be responsible to pay the fee from my prison trust account in increments, when and as I am able to do so.

1. Are you employed? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. If employed, please state your job title and the total amount of wages you make per month.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month  
Job Title

2. Within the past twelve (12) months, have you received any money from any of the following sources?

- |    |  |            |
|----|--|------------|
| a. | Business, or other form of self-employment?      | Yes__ No__ |
| b. | Rent payments, interest or dividends?            | Yes__ No__ |
| c. | Pensions, annuities, or life insurance payments: | Yes__ No__ |
| d. | Gifts or inheritances?                           | Yes__ No__ |
| e. | Any other sources? _____                         | Yes__ No__ |

(State source)

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 (12) months.

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3. Do you have any money, including in prison accounts or other checking or savings accounts?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_.

If the answer is "yes," state the total amount. \$\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you own or have any interest in 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.

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

_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

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

Executed on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

**Note: You do not need to send a copy of this document to Respondent. This Application must be accompanied by a Prison Trust Account Statement. This Application takes the place of an in forma pauperis motion and affidavit. Notarization is not necessary because the Application is signed under penalty of perjury.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name/Prisoner Number

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Mailing Address

Petitioner

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

_____	)	
Petitioner,	)	CASE NO. _____
(Full name)	)	(To be assigned by the Court at filing)
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	<b>STATEMENT OF TRUST FUND</b>
_____	)	<b>ACCOUNT</b>
	)	
_____	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	
_____	)	

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_, Petitioner named herein, has the sum of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ on account to his/her credit at the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ where he/she is confined.

I further certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the above-named Petitioner's  
trust fund account statement for the six-month period immediately prior to filing.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Officer of Institution