**NEW ENGLAND INNOCENCE PROJECT**

**SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Please read these instructions carefully and answer all questions.**

The New England Innocence Project (NEIP) will use this screening questionnaire to decide

whether your case fits within our mission. We cannot begin to review your case until we

receive your completed questionnaire. It is very important that you answer all questions to

the best of your ability in order for us to make a fully informed decision about your case.

Questionnaire Guidelines:

* This questionnaire MUST be filled out directly by the person applying for help. You must sign the release on the last page of the questionnaire.
* If someone else helped you fill out this questionnaire, please tell us who on the last page of the questionnaire.
* If you choose to handwrite your answers, please print in pen. It is difficult for us to read answers in pencil.
* Incomplete questionnaires will be returned.
* If you do not think a question applies to you, please write “Not Applicable” or “N/A.”
* If you do not understand a question, please write “I do not understand this question.”

NEIP **can** consider cases that fall within these guidelines:

* Case must be from one of the six New England states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Maine).
* A conviction must be final, meaning that the person has been convicted of the crime (not just arrested or charged and awaiting trial) and has filed at least one direct appeal, if any appeal is available.
* The applicant is claiming actual innocence of the crime.

NEIP **cannot** consider the following claims:

* Self-defense.
* Insanity or incapacity defense.
* Requests for sentence reduction: the applicant seeks a shorter sentence, but does not claim innocence of the crime.
* *“*He *said – she said”* cases: these are crimes in which no evidence was available other than the victim’s testimony, for example, an alleged sexual assault where the conviction relied only on the word of the victim versus the word of the defendant. These cases often require proof of a recantation before we can consider review.