



**CONFIDENTIAL DEFENSE MAP FOR  
DAVID PHILIP JOHNSON (DAVE)**  
from DefenseMap.com

**First completed:** October 31, 2018 (time 2:31)

**Revised:** October 31, 2018 (Sect. 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 21, 22) (time 1:01); September 28, 2019 (Sect. 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22) (time 1:53); November 18, 2019 (Sect. 14, 21) (time 0:18); May 6, 2020 (Sect. 11, 12, 15) (time 0:39); December 17, 2020 (Sect. 20) (time 0:17).

**Total time:** 6:42

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**Adult case**

- a. Case Description:** Appealing/challenging as illegal a conviction or sentence I already have.
- b. Charges/Investigation:** I was charged and convicted of one count of aggravated armed robbery and one count of attempted murder. I received concurrent sentences of 40 and 70 years and am not eligible for parole until October 1, 2045.
- c. Case Type:** State case.
- d. Court/Locale:** Second Parish Court in Gretna, Louisiana. ; Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, USA.
- e. Custody/Probation/Parole:** In custody (On these convictions.)/Not on probation/Not on parole.

**Birth/Race/Gender**

- f. Age:** 30.
- g. Race:** Black; Not Hispanic/Latino.
- h. Gender:** Male.

**Contact information**

- i. Address:** Louisiana State Penitentiary, Inmate # 01-746662, 17544 Tunica Trace, Angola, LA 70712.
- j. Primary Telephone:** None.
- k. Email:** dphiljohnson93@aol.com.
- l. Emergency Contacts:**
  - 1. Mr. Stevens / Counselor at LSP / 225-655-4484.

**Professional(s):** Charlie Asher (Attorney).

## Flags

### Important notes to client on use of this Defense Map and these 5 Flags.

- ✓ The following 5 Flags may help you and your attorney in deciding on the best steps to take. But, the entire report is important, so read it all carefully. Take notes for your next discussion with your attorney.
- ✓ You can log back on as often as you want to add more information.
- ✓ Clients can often help their cases by considering any personal changes they'd like to make in their lives. Even one positive change can help many cases.

#### 1. **Client's claims about the case and conviction(s)** ([Section 2, p. 5](#)):

- **Completely innocent/Only partially guilty/Acknowledges guilt on charges:** No, I am innocent.
- **Defense counsel's performance:** Poor (0 out of 2)
- **Prosecutor:** Somewhat fair (1 out of 2)
- **Judge:** Somewhat fair (1 out of 2)
- **Had a trial.**
- **Errors in proceedings as seen by client:**
  - **Mistaken eyewitness identification.**
  - **Bad science.**
  - **Police dishonesty/misconduct.**
  - **Prosecutor misconduct.**
  - **Dishonest or mistaken witness(es).**
  - **Important evidence that was not admitted or heard.**
  - **Ineffective representation from the defense attorney.**
  - **Something else that helped lead to an unfair result.**
- **Some important untested evidence.**

#### 2. **Past/other cases:**

- **Past arrests and charges** ([Section 3, p. 7](#)): Prior record disclosed.

#### 3. **Outlook and functioning:**

- **PTSD/Repeating bad memories or nightmares** ([Section 11, p. 9](#)): Potential PTSD issue disclosed.
- **Childhood years** ([Section 12, p. 9](#)): 2 childhood assets reported as either partly or completely missing, and 15 childhood challenges disclosed.
- **Adult years** ([Section 14, p. 11](#)): 8 of 14 important life assets either missing or partially missing.
- **Mood and functioning issues** ([Section 18, p. 12](#)): 2 possible issues disclosed.
  - **Depression:** 3 significant responses.
  - **Being more worried and nervous than other people.**
- **Counseling history** ([Section 19, p. 12](#)): Counseling history disclosed.

#### 4. **The client reports a wish to make changes in these 5 areas of life** ([Section 21, p. 13](#)):

- **Relationships** (details on p. 13).
- **Education** (details on p. 13).
- **Work/work skills** (details on p. 13).
- **Counseling** (details on p. 13).
- **Better use of a personal strength or skill** (details on p. 13).

#### 5. **Character and mitigation evidence** ([Section 22, p. 14](#)).



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## Sections

### Part A: Legal

#### 1. What's most on client's mind ([Up to Flags Page](#))

How unfair my trial was and how desperate I am to find an Innocence Project or private attorney who would take on my case. I am not guilty, and I lost (due to his death) the caring private attorney (Mr. Stanley Williams) who was working for my release before his death. I am now on a waiting list with my state's appellate defender program, and every few months all I hear is that the projected time for their review my case has been pushed back due to their backlog.

#### 2. Case details ([Up to Flags Page](#))

a. **Case, sentence, and incarceration status:** I was convicted of aggravated armed robbery and attempted murder in 2010. My sentences are 40 and 70 years concurrent. I'm not eligible for release until October 1, 2045.

b. **Events and their causes leading to arrest and incarceration:** I am innocent.

I am from Chicago, Illinois, and at the time of these events in 2010, I was visiting cousins of mine (Johnny and Sandra Johnson) in Gretna, Louisiana. Without warning on October 1, 2010, while I was out for a walk about a mile from my cousins' house and just inside the Welcome sign to Gretna, 3 police cars surrounded me and at least 5 police pulled weapons and started yelling at me, "Get on the ground and show your hands!" I hesitated only because I was confused and couldn't believe they were yelling at me.

I got on the ground and asked what the problem was. "You know what you did!" was all they kept yelling. They falsely accused me of resisting, broke my jaw, and fractured 2 vertebrae.

I got charged with being a 4th participant in an armed robbery of the owner of a Gretna restaurant 3 days before. I learned the owner was Howard Gravenor and the restaurant was "The Lucky Loft." I had never heard of either Mr. Gravenor or this restaurant. I didn't know any of the men supposedly involved, and I didn't know of Mr. Gravenor, The Lucky Loft restaurant, or the robbery or shooting of Mr. Gravenor.

I was appointed a public defender, Mr. Peter Donald. Even though I sent over 20 letters to Mr. Donald in the 5 months awaiting trial (he wouldn't take my collect calls from the jail), he came to see me only twice, about a half hour each time. He blew off my requests that (a) he meet with my cousins about my being at their house the entire night when this robbery supposedly happened (they were contacting him as well), (b) my wish to testify ("I never let clients testify," he said), and (c) my wish to see the file against me (especially because Mr. Donald was spending almost no time speaking with me).

After we lost at trial and on appeal, a caring older attorney by the name of Stanley Williams took up my cause when my cousins wrote to him. He collected a lot of information in my favor, all to go along with a lot of exculpatory evidence we already had. I will try to cover that evidence here.

By the way, Mr. Williams was amazingly committed to my cause. When he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer about 3 years ago, he said he was committed to living long enough to see me released. When the cancer suddenly spread, we had a tearful telephone conversation where he said he was sorry he wasn't successful in referring my case to a younger attorney who could carry on the fight. He told me that he was having his secretary, Ms. Marianne Pyles, send a complete copy to me and keep the original with her. I still have occasional contact with Ms. Pyles at her current paralegal job at Stanton and Vickers, [mjp@stantonvickers.net](mailto:mjp@stantonvickers.net), 866-290-9834. She is a wonderful person and wants to help me.

I think there are at least 5 grounds to set my convictions aside.

1. The police and prosecution have hidden important DNA evidence that excluded me. As I will say more about in the next paragraph, a lot of the case against me came down to a hat that was left at the scene. (In fact, even the prosecution has said at trial and in its brief on appeal that its entire case against me came from this hat supposedly connected to me and the now-recanted testimony of the jailhouse informant, Arthur Reynolds, I talk about in paragraph 2.) I had no connection to that hat, but the prosecution said it was mine. In my trial, the prosecution claimed there was no DNA recovered from that hat. But Mr. Williams found out to the contrary, and he confirms that in his file.

A former deputy prosecutor confirmed privately to Mr. Williams that the hat was tested against my DNA, and I was excluded as the source of the DNA.

2. There was police misconduct in creating a witness against me. This witness, Arthur Reynolds, claimed to be a jailhouse informant and that I told him that I was involved in this robbery and that I was worried because I had left a bright green hat at the scene. (No such conversation ever took place, and my only contact with Mr. Reynolds was when he was making fun of me for spending so much time reading my Bible and praying that God would deliver me from this charge.) Mr. Reynolds later confirmed to Mr. Williams that he made up all of this to get help on his drug charge. But he also said that he did it at the urging of the police and that the police had told him about the hat and the need for him to say that I was connected to it. Mr. Reynolds' affidavit (the original is in Mr. Williams file and a copy with me) confirmed that he was put up to this false testimony, which was basically just written by the police. And that he was stuck with telling the same story in court.

3. Prosecution misconduct. At my trial, the prosecutor twice referred to my not testifying. Mr. Donald didn't object, but on the second time the prosecutor brought this up, the judge stepped in to tell her to stop. Mr. Donald tried to raise this issue on appeal, but the Appellate Court said it was waived for no objection or motion for mistrial.

4. I am actually innocent. There are many indications of this. A. The DNA evidence shows I was not connected to that hat. B. The jailhouse informant's (Mr. Reynolds) sworn retraction of his trial testimony. C. The victim Mr. Gravenor (both in his testimony and in the deposit slip he was carrying) showed the amount stolen was almost exactly \$1,800, and each of the other 3 charged men was found with \$600 in cash, leaving no money for a fourth participant. D. Absolutely no evidence was introduced of my having any relationship with the three actual participants. E. My cousins could have given positive alibi evidence that I could not have been present.

5. Ineffective assistance of counsel. Mr. Williams' file includes a memo of 14 serious errors on Mr. Donald's part. I can make a copy available at any time.

- c. **Appeals, postconviction, or habeas challenges yet?:** Yes. Mr. Donald was appointed to do my appeal, even though I requested a new attorney. The court found that three of the grounds Mr. Williams raised had been waived by him. The only remaining issue was the sufficiency of the evidence, which the court said was for the jury.
- d. **Guilty of these charges?:** No, I am innocent. Please see what I have written. I had nothing to do with this robbery or the injury to Mr. Gravenor.
- e. **Defense counsel's job:** Poor (0 out of 2) Mr. Stanley Williams was a prince. He was one of the finest people I ever knew. He charged my family only \$2,200 to do mountains of work that, unfortunately, he wasn't able to finish.

But referring to my attorney at trial and on appeal, Mr. Donald, he was a disaster. I never felt so meaningless to anyone in my life. He spent almost no time with me. He prepared nothing. He rambled around the courtroom and seemed to get everyone angry with him (the judge and jury included). He wouldn't speak with my cousins who could have shown I wasn't present. He wouldn't hear me out about my wish to testify. He did nothing to find out that the hat supposedly linked to me had DNA material on it that actually excluded me.

My bigger complaint was that Mr. Donald did nothing to prepare so it was possible for my cousins and me to testify that I couldn't have been present, but I will add one more thing. He didn't object when the prosecutor made at least 2 remarks about my not testifying. The judge had to tell her to knock it off, but my own attorney did nothing about it.

When Mr. Williams met with him about the case, Mr. Donald couldn't even remember me or my case. I guess there's no legal requirement that he remember me, but Mr. Williams said he couldn't believe a lawyer could experience a miscarriage of justice this bad at trial and through appeal and not remember the case.

- f. **Fairness of the prosecutor(s):** Somewhat fair (1 out of 2) She made some comments about my not testifying and not having my cousins there to testify. When I actually WANTED TO TESTIFY AND HAVE MY COUSINS DO SO ALSO. The judge even warned her that she better stop harping on how I didn't testify (as I guess that's illegal, though my attorney didn't object until on appeal, which was ruled too late).
- g. **Fairness of the judge(s):** Somewhat fair (1 out of 2) I don't really know how to grade the judge. I don't think he helped by being so impatient with Mr. Donald (I think that reflected badly on me and my defense), but I was pretty impatient with Mr. Donald myself.
- h. **Trial?:** Yes. Please see what I wrote above.

The whole trial (jury selection and deliberations included) took only a day and a half. There's so much more I think we should have presented.

i. **Plea agreement?:** No.

j. **Specific errors:**

- **The client denies that any of the following played a role in the case(s):**
  1. A false confession.
  2. A false plea of guilty or "no contest" even though you were innocent.
  3. Evidence that should not have been admitted or allowed.
  4. Illegally obtained evidence.
  5. Bad jury instructions from the judge.
  6. An unfair judge.
  7. An illegal sentence or illegal sentencing procedure.
- **The client asserts the following did play a role in the case(s):**
  1. Mistaken eyewitness identification. There were 3 eyewitnesses. One insisted there were only 3 robbers involved. One thought there might have been a fourth but couldn't identify me. The third eyewitness said there were definitely four and that I was one of them.
  2. Bad science. I would say the DNA evidence that excluded me wasn't bad science but instead missing evidence. It should have been shared with us that I had been excluded.
  3. Police dishonesty/misconduct. According to jailhouse witness Reynolds, he perjured himself against me only because the police told him that testimony was necessary for help on his drug case.
  4. Prosecutor misconduct. Mr. Williams told me it was "fundamental error" for the prosecutor to make the 2 statements about my not testifying.
  5. Dishonest or mistaken witness(es). Jailhouse witness Reynolds, as he admits in his sworn statement to Mr. Williams, was definitely lying. The one witness to identify me (Mr. Roger Shull) was mistaken (and maybe a bit of a showoff—he seemed to love being the center of all that police attention).
  6. Important evidence that was not admitted or heard. The DNA evidence that excluded me and the testimony my cousins and I could have given to show I wasn't present, if Mr. Donald had just been willing to take the time to hear that evidence from us and present it.
  7. Ineffective representation from the defense attorney. Please see what I have written. I would like to speak with you about this. Mr. Williams told me he'd never seen a sloppier or lazier defense job than that done by Mr. Donald. As I wrote earlier, Mr. Williams wrote a memo (that's in my file and his paralegal's) detailing what he considered to be 14 gross errors on Mr. Doinald's part.
  8. Something else that helped lead to an unfair result. There may have been additional errors. Mr. Williams was working on these.

k. **Know of any important evidence not tested/followed up on?:** Yes. Yes, please see what I've written about the DNA hat evidence and the alibi evidence I wanted to present.

l. **Additional errors?:** No.

3. **Past cases and arrests** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

a. **Juvenile cases:** 1. When I was 17, I was charged with possession of alcohol. I had provided a bottle of whiskey for a party. I got 6 months of juvenile probation. For years when I saw my probation office (Mr. Chip Byrd), he would joke that I must have his only success, as I was never arrested again. He was a great guy, and he actually has stayed in touch with me over the years, even since I've been incarcerated here.

b. **Other adult cases:** 0.

c. **Any other arrests?:** No.

4. **Other important legal cases** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. Any other legal cases now?: No.
- b. Past legal cases?: No.

**Part B: Basic Profile**

5. **Military service** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

None.

6. **Physical health** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. Overall health: Good (2 out of 2).
- b. History of head injury?: No.
- c. History of losing consciousness?: No.
- d. Diagnosed with brain injury or disease?: No.
- e. Other serious physical problems or disabilities?: No.
- f. Major surgeries?: No.
- g. Currently on medications?: No.
- i. Other important medical information?: No.

7. **Family and other important relationships** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. Currently married?: No.  
Currently in a committed or long-term relationship?: No.
- b. Married before?: No.
- c. Children: 0.
- d. Most positive and supportive people in client's life: I have a large family with many people who care about me. This includes the cousins I was visiting when I was wrongfully arrested on this charge and my parents, sister, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins back in Chicago where I lived.
- e. Current unhealthy or hurtful relationships?: No.
- f. Other impactful people in client's life currently?: No.

8. **Education** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- b. Extent/description of education: I graduated from Chicago Vocational High School in 2006. I did well (only about 10% of our class graduated). I played football, basketball, and track. Later I took some technical classes in computer science from ITT in Chicago.
- a. Currently in school?: No.
- c. Success in school: A lot (2 out of 2).

9. **Employment** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. Employed?: No. I've been incarcerated since this charge. I would like to work even here at Angola, but the prison has automated a lot, and there are very few real jobs. I do volunteer tutoring for fellow inmates, and I'm an assistant instructor in a lot of basic reading and math classes here.
- b. Prior work experience: I worked in computer and cell phone sales for Sprint for the 4 years before I was arrested. I did very well and was always rated "Superior."
- c. Any other important information about employment or work history?: No.



**10. Use of free time** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Currently:** I take as many classes as are offered in things I'm interested in. These have included 6 different Bible and religious classes, Emotional Intelligence 1-3, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People for Inmates," Problem-Solving I and II, Literature for the People, and some others. I've been an assistant instructor in several basic reading and math classes.
- b. **Consequences from ways client has used free time:** I think I've been helped by all my classes, but I think any interested person would be. It also helps me in staying focused and less depressed.

**Part C: Personal Challenges**

**11. PTSD/Repeating bad memories or nightmares** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Bothered by bad memories/nightmares of traumatic events?:** Yes.
- b. **Number of traumatic events still causing symptoms:** 2.
- c. **Events:** 1. My arrest on this charge with the guns drawn on me and the very confusing commands (given that I had no idea I was being targeted).  
2. An attempted rape incident here at Angola about a month into my time here.
- d. **Symptoms in the last 12 months:**
  1. Unwanted memories of the events.
  2. Flashbacks/reliving the events as if happening again.
  3. Nightmares about the events.
  4. Waking up thinking about the events.
  5. Trying not to think or talk about the events.
  6. Trying not to be around people, places, or things that remind me of the events.
  7. Almost always being on guard for danger.
  8. Being easily startled or frightened.
  9. Trouble concentrating.
  10. Trouble sleeping.
- e. **Any connection between these experiences/PTSD and legal problems (including this case)?:** Yes. Only in the sense that these things happened only because I was wrongly arrested and convicted.
- f. **Other PTSD information?:** No.

**12. Childhood years** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Client most wants understood about childhood:** I had a great childhood. My parents were wonderful people. As was my little sister. They were all a blessing to me in growing up in a difficult neighborhood, and except that my dad died 3 years ago of a stroke, they are all a blessing to me now.
- b. **Childhood assets. Regarding 10 possible important childhood assets, the client reported the following:**
  - **Present in client's childhood:**
    1. **A loving mother who stayed in my life.**
    2. **A loving father who stayed in my life.**
    3. **Other loving family members.**
    4. **Parents who stayed happily together.**
    5. **Peace within my family as a whole.**
    6. **A family that was able to have disagreements but then peacefully settle them.**
    7. **An overall good experience with school.**
    8. **Good friends almost all the time.**
  - **Somewhat present in client's childhood:**
    1. **A consistently safe home life.** My family was all safe people, but we lived in a neighborhood that was dominated by crime, drugs, friction between citizens and police, etc.
    2. **The feeling that I would have a good future.** My family stressed that things would be

good, but I always saw the violence around me as saying my parents were overly optimistic about that. I had a lot of fears about this that I just kept to myself.

- **Missing in client's childhood:** 0.

**c. Childhood challenges:**

**i. Family structure during my childhood:**

1. Unsafe or unhealthy people brought into our home or family life. Our family didn't bring these people in, but they were all around us. I probably heard gunshots more weeks than I didn't, I saw 3 people who had been shot just before the police and paramedics arrived, and we just lived in a rough place.

**ii. Childhood attack or physical abuse (other than sexual):**

1. Hit or physically attacked. There were bullies all around. I got attacked verbally and sometimes physically for being interested in school and a Christian life. My parents just emphasized this was part of my living a better life.
2. Threatened with being hit, physically attacked, or injured.
3. A crime against me. This was all part of the same attacking and threatening from bullies and gang "punks" (the actual adult gang members never bothered me--it was the kids trying to show they were for real).
4. Threatened by a gang or gang member.

**iii. Childhood emotional or verbal mistreatment or abuse:**

1. Emotional (including verbal/spoken) abuse by someone outside my family. This was part of the punks trying to prove themselves.
2. Bullied. From the same groups of junior gang members that came along all the time.

**iv. As a child, seeing something very upsetting or frightening:**

1. Seeing or hearing a serious accident or injury to someone.
2. Seeing or hearing someone shot. All of these things were just part of the neighborhood I grew up in.
3. Seeing or hearing someone stabbed.
4. Seeing or hearing someone attacked.
5. Seeing or hearing someone beaten.
6. Seeing or hearing a violent fight.
7. Seeing or hearing someone threatened.

**v. Other childhood issues:**

1. Alcohol use. I did just a little experimenting with alcohol, including the time I got caught drinking whiskey to a party. I learned my lesson and moved on.

- d. Relationship with father (while growing up):** Good (2 out of 2). He was a wonderful man. He encouraged me to know that part of success was being willing to stand out as different, not being part of gangs or other losing strategies, etc.

**Relationship with father (today):** My father is not living. I lost my dad to a stroke about 5 years ago. One of my great regrets is that I can't be home to pick up the slack of his being gone--to be able to help my mom, sister, and old neighbors and friends.

- e. Relationship with mother (while growing up):** Good (2 out of 2). She's great.

**Relationship with mother (today):** Good (2 out of 2).

- f. Raised at any time by anyone other than mother or father?:** No.

- g. Any other serious difficulties in childhood?:** No.

- h. ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) Score:** 0 out of 10.

- i. Any connection between childhood problems and legal problems (including this case)?:** No.

**13. One or more controlling or hurtful partners ([Up to Flags Page](#))**

- a. Any current involvement with a controlling or hurtful partner?:** No.

- b. Past controlling/hurtful relationships?:** No.

**14. Adult years** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

**a. Current life assets. Among 14 possible important life assets, the client reported the following:**

• **Definitely present today:**

1. Good physical health.
2. A loving and helpful family life. Many people in my family stay in touch with me, mostly through letters. This is an amazing gift I have that most inmates here don't have.
3. At least 3 good and helpful friends I can call on anytime. Even here in prison I have good friends. This includes people from the outside, some inmates here, and even some staff.
4. Volunteer work I like. I look forward to every chance I have to tutor and assistant teach.
5. A safe place to live--without fear of losing it.
6. A spiritual life I'm happy with.

• **Somewhat present today:**

1. Safety in all parts of my life. Prison is never 100% safe, but I do as well as I can.
2. A lot of joy/happiness.
3. Work I like. The volunteer tutoring and class assistant jobs I have help to keep my sanity.
4. A lot of purpose in my life/a feeling that my life matters to others.
5. A good balance between work, rest, and play.

• **Missing today:**

1. Good peace of mind/freedom from worry most of the time. I worry about my case, my mom, and my sister.
2. Enough money/financial security.
3. Good feelings and trust for police and other authorities. I'd say I used to hav this, but not after losing everything in my life in this case.

**b. Client describes his/her problems in adult life:** Well, facing all these years in prison for something I didn't do--that's the most painful problem I have.

**Part D: Addictive Patterns**

**15. Use of alcohol** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. Significant responses regarding use of alcohol:** None.
- b. Last used alcohol:** About 7 years ago.
- c. Any connection between alcohol and legal problems (including this case)?:** No.
- d. Client's belief about having a problem with alcohol:** No.

**16. Use of drugs (other than alcohol)** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. Significant drug responses:** None.
- b. Reflections on drug use:** I doubt I'll ever try drugs. Even when I had 3 ribs broken in a sexual attack here at the prison, I took less than a quarter of the pain meds that the doctors offered.
- c. Client's belief about having a problem with drugs:** No. Seeing all the problems around us from drugs, my parents asked my sister and me to promise one thing: that we would never use drugs. I've kept this promise for them.
- d. Any connection between drugs and legal problems (including this case)?:** No.

**17. Other abuse or addiction issues** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. Other addictive patterns or harmful habits?:** No.

## Part E: Personal Functioning

### 18. Mood and functioning issues ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- I. **Past suicide attempts:** No.
- II. **The client's responses don't include indications of the following in the last 12 months:**
  - a. **Thoughts of hurting myself** (0 out of 9).
  - b. **Thoughts of hurting others** (0 out of 8).
  - c. **More anger than most people seem to have** (0 out of 9).
  - d. **Dependence/Codependence** (0 out of 13).
- III. **Significant responses were given for the following possible mood and functioning issues in the last 12 months:**
  - a. **Depression** (3 out of 13):
    1. Feelings of doom or hopelessness.
    2. Thinking about death more than usual.
    3. Problems concentrating or being easily distracted.

**Client's reflections on these 3 responses:** These problems are with me whenever I think of what I am missing out on by being in prison. And whenever I get caught up in seeing if I can get these convictions reversed.
  - b. **Other mood or functioning issue:**
    1. **Being more worried and nervous than other people.** When I worry about my case or think about the day of my arrest or the attack on me in prison, yes, I think I'm much more worried and nervous than other people, at least the people who are not incarcerated.

### 19. Counseling history ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **In counseling currently?:** No.
- b. **Using medications currently for mental or emotional issues?:** No.
- c. **Used medications in past for mental or emotional issues?:** No.
- d. **Prior counseling/therapy?:** Yes. I had a counselor in the first year I was locked up to try to adjust. He couldn't see me very often, maybe 5 times in that first year. But it helped me.
- e. **Participation in recovery or survivor groups?:** No.

## Part F: Life Patterns and Character and Mitigation Evidence

### 20. Client today ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Best things in client's life today:** My family, my chance to tutor and assistant teach, and the hope that a new attorney will pick up Mr. Williams' work on my behalf.
- b. **Hardest or most challenging things in client's life today:** Prison. People on the outside, at least most of them, cannot know what this is like.
- c. **Worst events during incarceration:** There's a lot I could say here. My sister often tells me about how her children miss me and would be doing much better if I were able to help them and encourage them like I used to. Two of them have dropped out of school and are in real trouble in their lives.

Here in the prison I've seen some terrible violence, some I could try to stop and some I couldn't do anything about. A young man I was tutoring was badly harassed. I tried to protect him and tried to get his tormentors to leave him alone. Finally, he was raped by two men. I found out about it afterward and tried to encourage him. He committed suicide.
- d. **Spiritual or religious aspects of client's life:** I'm a serious Christian, and this helps me a lot. I pray several times a day, study the Bible, and go to services regularly.
- e. **Jobs and job training while incarcerated:** I have worked as an assistant instructor for basic reading and math.

- f. **Classes/education while incarcerated:** I take as many classes as are offered in things I'm interested in. These have included 6 different Bible and religious classes, Emotional Intelligence 1-3, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People for Inmates," Problem-Solving I and II, Literature for the People, and some others.
- g. **Counseling, drug/alcohol recovery fellowship, religious groups, and other personal growth while incarcerated:** I attend at least one religious service every day, usually in the morning. I attend at least 2 morning services every Sunday, and I meet in a group of about 20 inmates who a local church (The Zion Church of Christ) leads on Wednesday nights.

I also participate in an Emotional Intelligence Group every Tuesday and Friday afternoon.

I belong to the HW3 Program ("Hustle While We Wait") for Honor Offenders and have even led many of the 7 Habits classes.

- h. **Other measures at self-improvement during incarceration:** Please see what I have written. I've taken part in every group and activity I thought could be of any benefit to me. (Please note that 90% of the programming here is geared to drug and alcohol issues, and I've been lucky never to have those.)
- i. **Rules/conduct violations during this incarceration:** I've had no rules violations or write-ups. In fact, I think officers who know me would all describe me as a model prisoner. (They call us "model offenders," a term I hate because of the several people here who are innocent.)
- j. **Assistance to the institution/facility during incarceration:** I've tutored fellow inmates in math and GED studies, tried to de-escalate fights and intimidation, and tried to be a good example in how I'm using my time. As I said before, I belong to the HW3 Program ("Hustle While We Wait") for Honor Offenders and have even led many of the 7 Habits classes.
- k. **Living arrangement plans:** I would live with my family in Chicago, where I have lived my whole. Either my mom (Mrs. Lucille Johnson) or my my sister (Sarah Johnson) would be happy to have me.
- l. **Work plans:** I would return to my old work as a Sprint representative.
- m. **Other plans for success upon release:** I would return to the responsible life I had before this mistaken charge.
- n. **Other things to help post-release success:** My family and my church--and the help of people who have cared about me for years.
- o. **Client plans for more steps supporting release:** I will continue with my work (assistant instructor and tutor) that has always been rated as Superior, my religious practices, and my clean record here.
- p. **Other important information about the relief sought:** I honestly believe I would be a credit to anyone who looked at my case and was part of the effort to have me released.

## 21. Client's thoughts on the future ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Wish for changes in the following areas:**
  1. **Relationships.** I would simply like to be reunited with all the family who love me and who I would like to help. Especially my mom and sister who no longer have my dad to look after them.
  2. **Education.** I would always be open to classes to better myself and my ability to provide for my family. Sprint has executive classes I think I would be good at.
  3. **Work/work skills.** Obviously, I'd like to be out and working again to help my family.
  4. **Counseling.** I know people can have trouble readjusting to life out of prison. I wouldn't hesitate to use that if needed.
  5. **Better use of a personal strength or skill.** Again, I'd like to be out so I can put all of myself to service of my family and the community I grew up in and would like to help.
- b. **Client goals:** Be out, be productive, be a good example to others.
- c. **Specific things client thinks a judge would like to see 4 months from now:** I think that a judge looking at my life (especially if they could realize I'm innocent) would want me to keep growing in the direction I have been.
- d. **Something good the client can imagine coming from current challenges:** As a Christian, I believe that good can come out of everything. It's one of the thoughts that sustains me. My Savior suffered on the cross, and it would be an insult to Him and what I believe if I thought my lesser

suffering couldn't have a purpose.

## 22. Character and mitigation evidence ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Best accomplishments:** Living up to my parents' expectations, success in school when very few students in our school succeeded, being a valuable employee, and being a useful person here in prison.
- b. **Personal strengths:** I like to think of myself as a dutiful, kind, grateful, and persistent person.
- c. **People client is currently helping (or who currently rely on client):** I bet there are over 500 men here in prison who say I've helped them a lot. But I would also like to be out and helpful to my mom, sister, several elderly relatives, and my entire southwest Chicago neighborhood that (for all its problems) is full of people who were helpful to me). If possible, I'd like to help every kid I ever have a chance to meet again. (My heart sometimes aches over how little I get to see young people.)
- d. **Other people client has helped:** Please see what I've written already. I'd be happy to talk about this.
- e. **Client's Index of Supporters:**

1. **Mrs. Lucile Johnson:**
  - a. **Relation to client:** Mother.
  - b. **Trustworthiness:** My mom is a pillar in her community. She hasn't missed church in probably 50 years. She's been a guiding light to my sister and me always. You could ask anyone within a mile of our Chicago home, and they would tell you she is the picture of a saintly person.
  - c. **Contact information:** 4415 Wendell St., Chicago, IL 60609; 312-900-1455.
  - d. **Specific help:** My mom would do anything to help. She would write an excellent letter, come to court, and support me in every way if we won this case, including living with her. I'm not sure she'd ever let me go or ever stop hugging me! We talk twice a week, and if she let me waste more of her money, she'd insist we talk every day.
2. **Sarah Johnson:**
  - a. **Relation to client:** Sister.
  - b. **Trustworthiness:** Sarah is a perfect sister. She is two years younger, but she has been someone I could always get good advice from. In fact, everyone in our neighborhood looks up to her. Due to being in prison, I haven't had the blessing of seeing it, but everyone says is the perfect mom to her 1-year old twins. Right now she is separated from her partner (George Woodward), but I hope they are able to get back together.
  - c. **Contact information:** 312-900-8452; sxjohnson989@gmail.com.
  - d. **Specific help:** Sarah would testify to my good character, how much she, her children, and my mom need me home, and how she would be of any help she could to help my return.
3. **Mr. Chip Byrd:**
  - a. **Relation to client:** My old juvenile probation office who has stayed in touch with me for years, including by mail now.
  - b. **Trustworthiness:** Mr. Byrd is a legend and a pillar in the community.
  - c. **Contact information:** I think 312-699-4355.
  - d. **Specific help:** Mr. Byrd (who like my family believes 100% in my innocence) would say there is no way I could have been involved in something like this. He could testify to my 100% clean record since he knew me for getting arrested for having liquor as a 17-year-old.
4. **Mrs. Marianne Pyles :**
  - a. **Relation to client:** She is still a paralegal at Stanton and Vickers, the law firm where Mr. Williams (my deceased post conviction attorney) used to work.
  - b. **Trustworthiness:** She's a saint, as proved by how she has stood by me, even spending her money to take my collect calls to talk about my case.
  - c. **Contact information:** Stanton and Vickers, P.C.
  - d. **Specific help:** I think she would point out all the evidence showing I'm innocent, take anyone through the file she holds (I have my copy as well), and be any help she could.
5. **Mr. Percy Denson:**
  - a. **Relation to client:** Prisoner counselor.
  - b. **Trustworthiness:** I think he's looked up to by everyone here at the prison. Literally everyone--staff, administration, inmates, teachers, and volunteers. He's kind, honest, and





