

# INNOCENCE RECORD

## Exonoree Case Abstracts

### Terms and Definitions

NOTE: *This document defines and explains certain terms used by volunteers who prepared the exonoree case abstracts. Not all terms or subsections in the abstract templates were specifically explained to volunteers and therefore not all abstract subsections are set out below.*

#### **Tab 1 Defendant Background**

(b) Date of birth

*Dates may be an approximation and frequently January 1 was used when specific date was unavailable.*

(g) Does the defendant have a relevant mental health history?

*Includes any indication of mental health issues or treatment (e.g., mental illness, developmental disability, depression, dementia, bi-polar disorder, and alcohol/drug dependency) contained in trial records. Special education needs and learning disabilities were excluded.*

#### **Tab 2 Victim(s) Background**

(a) Date of birth

*Dates may be an approximation. January 1 used if specific date was unavailable.*

#### **Tab 3 Case Information**

(d) Citations to any reported opinions

*This refers only to the defendant's appeal and not other cases that may be cited in the opinion or other pleadings.*

(e) Brief case summary

*This information is linked from the Innocence Project website.*

#### **Tab 4 Attorney & Judicial Information**

(a) Defendant's attorney name(s)

*Includes any attorney(s) who represented defendant at some point during the trial record (includes preliminary hearings, sentencing etc).*

(b) Prosecution name(s)

*Includes any prosecutors involved in the trial; sometimes also includes the District or State Attorney even if (s)he did not personally try the defendant.*

**Tab 5            Pretrial Events**

(a) Date of arrest

*Volunteers were instructed to provide exact date if available.*

**Tab 6            Charges**

*No special instructions under this tab.*

**Tab 7            Trial and Verdict**

(b) Date trial ended

*The day that the case was submitted to the judge/jury for a decision.*

**Tab 8            Conviction(s) and Sentence**

(a) Charge conviction status

*Includes individual charges and whether or not the defendant was convicted of them.*

(b) Total time of sentence(s)

*The total time of actual jail time to be served by defendant (when taking in account which charges are consecutive and which are concurrent).*

(c) If sentenced on separate convictions, terms to be served

*Answers distinguish between which charges are consecutive and which concurrent*

**Tab 9            Exoneration**

*No special instructions under this tab.*

**Tab 10      Eye-witness Identifications**

NOTE: *The identification procedures set forth in the case abstracts identify procedures that were used at trial, regardless of whether any individual (including the exoneree) was actually identified using that procedure. In a minority of cases, identification procedures did not result in an identification of the exoneree, or resulted in the identification of someone other than the exoneree.*

# Number of eyewitnesses identifying defendant

*Victims are considered an eyewitness if they testified at trial.*

(a5) Voice identification

*Any identification of the suspect's voice as matching that of the perpetrator (sometimes part of an identification procedure, sometimes spontaneous).*

(a6) Sketch

*Includes both eyewitness involvement on the construction of a composite and eyewitness statements that a suspect resembles a composite.*

**Tab 11      Confessions**

(a) Defendant confessed before trial

*Includes any reference to a confession, admission or dream statement made by defendant, including police claims that are disputed by defendant.*

(b) Self-incriminating statements to jailhouse snitch

*A claim by another inmate that the defendant confessed to involvement in the crime to him/her.*

(b3) Snitch received deal/leniency

*Includes any indication that the snitch received some kind of deal or leniency from police or prosecutors in return for testifying about the alleged confession of the defendant.*

**Tab 12      Other Self-Incriminating Statements Offered at Trial**

*Includes self-incriminating statements allegedly made to people other than inmates.*

**Tab 13      Defendant Testimony**

(b) Did the defendant have a prior record of convictions?

*Includes only a prior record of convictions that is contained in the trial record.*

**Tab 14 Forensic Evidence**

(b) Did an expert testify at trial about forensic methodology or results?

*Includes any witness confirmed as an expert during trial without applying any independent criteria regarding witness's expertise. Could include forensic scientists, medical professionals, police officers, etc.*

(second portion of #14) Identify any references in the record to the following types of forensic evidence

*Includes any reference to listed evidence categories, without any distinction that the evidence implicates or excludes defendant.*

(a) Prints

*Includes both fingerprints and shoe/footprints.*

(c) Serological

*Analysis of blood and bodily fluids. Includes blood, semen and saliva.*

(h) Voice identification

*Includes both identifications of the suspect's voice as matching that of the perpetrator and voiceprint analysis of recorded speech made by an expert.*

(j) Fiber, paint, & glass

*Includes references to clothing.*

**Tab 15 Additional Comments**

Volunteers included additional information that would not fit easily into other tabs or if identified conflicting responses to particular field queries.