REMOVAL FROM THE JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY:

A Guide to Getting Started On Your Own



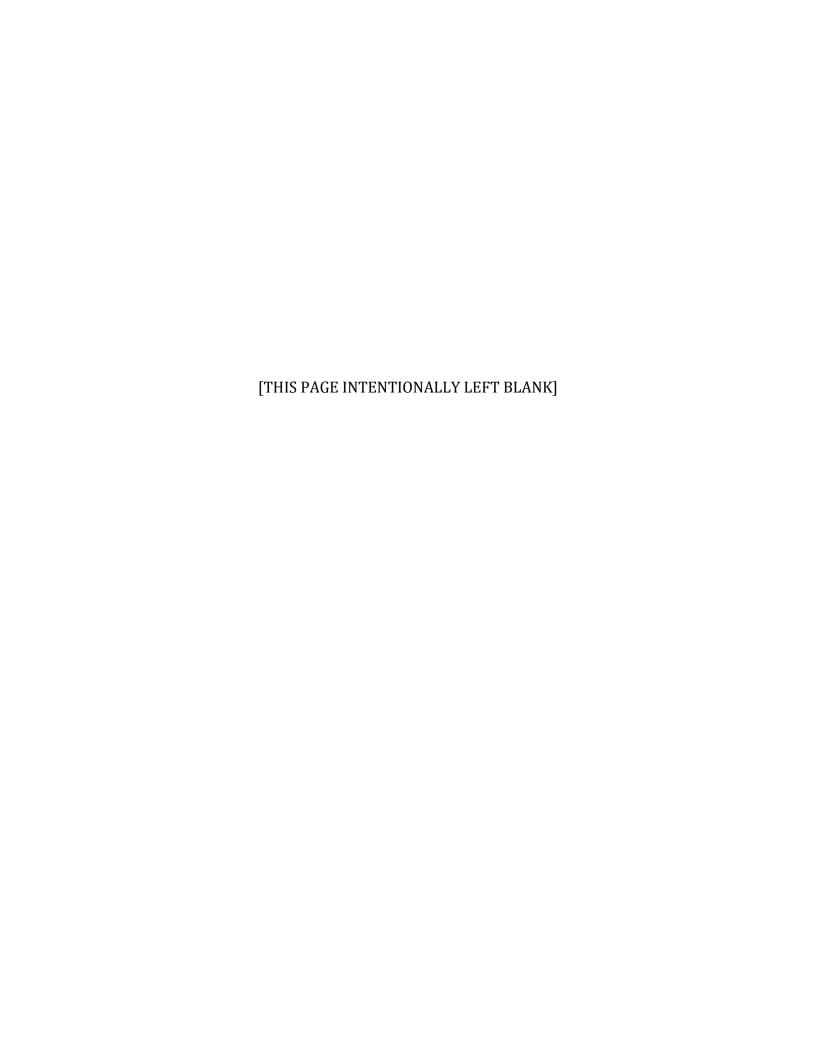
Produced by the Children and Family Justice Center at Northwestern University School of Law

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purposes only and does <u>not</u> constitute legal advice.
The Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC) cannot guarantee that the information contained in this handbook will be sufficient or appropriate for your particular needs. The CFJC is <u>not</u> your attorney in this case. Sharing this handbook with you does <u>not</u> create, and is not intended to encourage, an attorney-client relationship between you and the CFJC (or its individual attorneys).

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NOTE: Forms E, F, and G are written as though you will be a pro se petitioner going forward without the assistance of a lawyer. Of course, these forms will look different in various respects, therefore, if you do have a lawyer who is filing them on your behalf – but they will still give you a sense of what to expect from your lawyer's work.



PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

What are the purposes of this handbook?

- (1) To provide you the basic information and forms you will need to ask the court for a free lawyer who will help you request removal from the juvenile sex offender registry.
- (2) To provide you enough information to monitor the work of your lawyer as an informed client, or to file a motion on your own ("pro se") if no lawyer is provided to you.

Who is this handbook for?

For the information in this handbook to apply to you, all four of the following facts must be true: YOU MUST HAVE BEEN...

- (1) <u>found guilty</u> (aka "adjudicated delinquent")
- (2) of a <u>sexual offense</u>
- (3) in <u>juvenile court</u>
- (4) for an incident that happened when you were 17 years old or younger.

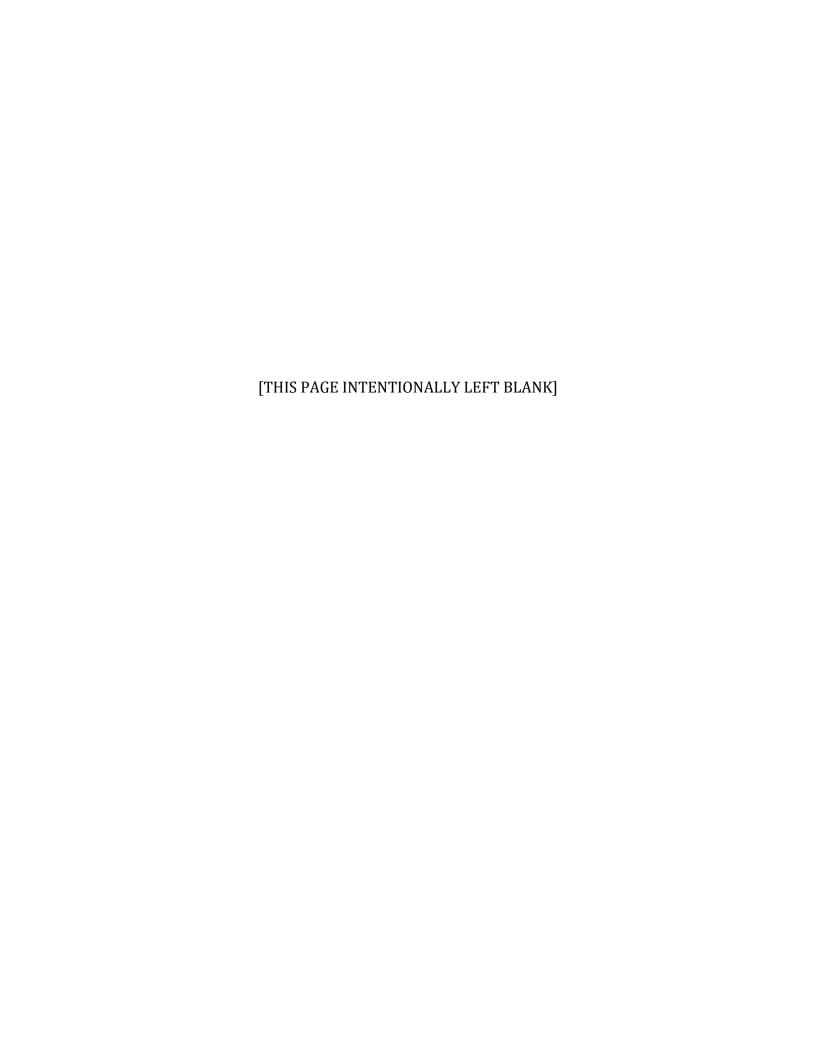
If all four of those things are true about your case, then you should become eligible at some point to petition the court for removal from the registry.

How do I know whether I am now eligible to petition the court for removal from the registry?

You become eligible to file a petition for removal after waiting a certain amount of time following your adjudication (aka the date you were found guilty and sentenced).

- If you were found guilty of a misdemeanor, you have to wait at least 2 years in other words, you cannot file a petition until at least 2 years after you were adjudicated.
- If you were found guilty of a felony, you have to wait at least 5 years in other words, you cannot file a petition until at least 5 years after you were adjudicated.

Please note that to file a *successful* petition for removal, you will almost certainly have to be able to prove that you have done more since your adjudication than simply wait for the right amount of time to pass. A successful petition will also include information about your personal, school, and work history that demonstrates rehabilitation and the absence of any risk to re-offend, as suggested in the rest of this handbook.



SECTION 1

Getting a Lawyer

This section gives you info about how to ask a court to appoint you a *free lawyer* to help with your petition.

The law allowing for these petitions seems to require that you have a lawyer representing you when you file one. Although the particular judge in your court might let you file a complete petition without a lawyer, it's usually helpful to have a lawyer anyway.

- → If you want a lawyer's help, but can't afford to pay for one yourself, this section of this handbook is for you so keep reading.
 - ❖ If you can afford to pay for your own lawyer (or if you want to try filing a petition on your own without a lawyer), skip ahead to Section 2 (page 21).

The process for asking the court to provide a free lawyer to help you involves 4 parts:

- (1) Telling the court that you are filing a motion* and that you will come to court on a certain day for a decision;
- (2) Asking the court to provide you a lawyer for free;
- (3) Proving to the court that you cannot afford to pay a lawyer; and
- (4) Giving the court a sample order[†] that the judge can easily fill out and sign.

Each of those 4 parts involves its own form. In the pages that follow here in Section 1, you will find 4 sample forms (one for each part of the process), and basic instructions for how to fill them out. Of course, because only you know the details of your case and situation, these instructions do not (and cannot) tell you exactly what to write. But they should give you an understanding of what you need to provide to the court.

The 4 forms, which each correspond to one part of the process as described above, are:

- (1) Form A: Sample Notice of Motion
- (2) Form B: Sample Motion for the Appointment of Counsel
- (3) Form C: Sample Affidavit of Assets and Liabilities
- (4) Form D: Sample Court Order Appointing Counsel

^{*} A "motion" is a document you file at the courthouse that asks a judge to do something (in this case, you're asking the judge to appoint a lawyer to help you with your petition).

[†] An "order" is the document the judge signs to make his decision on an issue presented to him (in this case, the issue presented is whether to appoint a lawyer to help you with your petition).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE FORMS

You should fill out all of the forms before going to the courthouse, and plan to spend some time making sure they are filled out properly and completely. The following offers guidance and clarifications for each form.

NOTE: Specific instructions are not provided for each and every blank space on the forms, but you should make certain that all blanks are filled in with the appropriate information

Form A: Notice of Motion

The 'Notice of Motion' is filed in order to let the court and the prosecutor know that you have filed your motion, and to inform them when you will come to court for a hearing/decision on your motion.

- ❖ *Name of County*: Fill in the name of the county where you are filing this motion it should be the same county where you were in court years ago for the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- ❖ *Petitioner Name*: This is you. Write your entire name (first, middle initial, and last).
- Case Number: This needs to be the case number of the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- ❖ Judge: This needs to be the judge you intend to appear in front of for this motion. If the judge who presided over the case that caused you to be placed on the registry is still an active judge in the same court, then you should file your motion with that judge. If your old judge is no longer available, then you should call the office of the Clerk of the Court, explain the motion you want to file, and ask what judge you should file it with.
- ❖ Date Motion to be Heard: Write the date that you would like to come back to court to have your motion for the appointment of counsel heard (and likely decided) by the judge. Pick a date at least two weeks from when you file your motion in court.
- ❖ *Pro se*: This is a legal term that means that you are filing this motion on your own behalf just sign your name on the line over where it says "*Pro se*."
- ❖ Petitioner Address: This is your current mailing address in most cases, it should match the address the offender registry has on file for you.

Form B: Motion for Appointment of Counsel

The 'Motion for Appointment of Counsel' is your actual motion that asks the judge to appoint a lawyer to help you with your petition for removal from the registry.

❖ Name of County: Fill in the name of the county where you are filing this motion – it should be the same county where you were in court years ago for the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.

- ❖ *Petitioner Name*: This is you. Write your entire name (first, middle initial, and last).
- Case Number: This needs to be the case number of the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- ❖ Judge: This needs to be the judge you intend to appear in front of for this motion. If the judge who presided over the case that caused you to be placed on the registry is still an active judge in the same court, then you should file your motion with that judge. If your old judge is no longer available, then you should call the office of the Clerk of the Court, explain the motion you want to file, and ask what judge you should file it with.
- ❖ *Date of Adjudication*: This is the date you either pled guilty or were found guilty of the charge/s in the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- Crime: This is the name of the actual crime you pled guilty to or were found guilty of in the case that caused you to be placed on the registry (for example, criminal sexual abuse, aggravated criminal sexual abuse, criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault, etc.)
- ❖ *Pro se*: This is a legal term that means that you are filing this motion on your own behalf just sign your name on the line over where it says "*Pro se*."

Form C: Affidavit of Assets and Liabilities

The 'Affidavit of Assets and Liabilities' is a three-page document that will show the court that you cannot afford to pay for your own attorney. It will cover how much money you make (income), how much money you owe (debts and liabilities), and what valuable things and property you own (assets).

Although there are more blanks on this form than the others, it is largely self-explanatory. More specific guidance for some sections is provided below. Even if some of the entries do not apply to you or your situation, do not leave them blank – instead, enter a zero or "N/A" (for "not applicable").

<u>NOTE:</u> Before you sign your name on the third page of the form, but after you've filled out the rest completely, you will need to take this form to a Notary Public because it is an "affidavit" (unlike the other three forms). This just means it needs extra verification, which is what the notary provides. You will sign the form in front of the notary, and the notary will then stamp and sign the form as well. The notary will require that you have a photo ID, and there may also be a small fee (usually under \$5). Notaries are usually available at banks and check-cashing stores.

- ❖ Name of County: Fill in the name of the county where you are filing this motion it should be the same county where you were in court years ago for the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- Petitioner Name: This is you. Write your entire name (first, middle initial, and last).
- Case Number: This needs to be the case number of the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- ❖ *Judge*: This needs to be the judge you intend to appear in front of for this motion. If the judge who presided over the case that caused you to be placed on the registry is

still an active judge in the same court, then you should file your motion with that judge. If your old judge is no longer available, then you should call the office of the Clerk of the Court, explain the motion you want to file, and ask what judge you should file it with.

- ❖ Part 3 is asking about your family circumstances.
 - (a) Marital Status: This should be single, married, separated, divorced, or widow/er.
 - (b) Number of Dependents: This usually refers to your minor children who live with you, but may include other people depending on your circumstances.
- ❖ Part 5 is asking about the money that you get each month from various sources.
 - (a) If you work, enter your monthly pay.
 - (b) If you receive money from any of the listed sources (mostly government programs), enter that amount.
 - (c) If you receive rent as the owner of any property or money from any other listed source, enter that amount.
 - (d) If you receive money each month from any other source, enter that amount and then describe the source in the lines that immediately follow (d).
 - (e) Add up the numbers from sub-parts (a) through (d), and enter that amount.
- ❖ Part 6 is asking about the value of things that you actually own.
 - (a) If you own your home, enter the amount it is worth here.
 - (b) If you own other land besides your home, enter its value here and describe its location where indicated.
 - (c) If you own a car, enter its value and description here.
 - (d) If you own other valuable items, enter their total estimated value here.
 - (e) If you have bank accounts (checking, savings, etc.), enter their total current balances here.
 - (g) If you have these types of insurance policies, enter the amount you would be paid if you voluntarily closed out the policy before it matures.
 - (h) If you hold these types of assets, enter their total value here.
 - (i) If you own any other items of value besides those listed above, enter their total value and describe what they are in the lines that immediately follow (i).
 - (j) Add up the numbers from sub-parts (a) through (i), and enter that amount.
- ❖ Part 7 is asking about money you owe to others.
 - (c) If you have credit card debt, student loans, have accepted loans from other people, etc., enter the total amounts and the person/relationship or company here.
 - (e) Add up the numbers from sub-parts (a) through (d), and enter that amount.
- ❖ *Petitioner*: You will sign your name on this line, <u>but not until you are with a notary</u> (see explanation above).
- ❖ The rest of the lines on the form (below your signature line) are for the notary to fill out leave them blank for the notary.

Form D: Order Appointing Counsel

The 'Order Appointing Counsel' is a form that will be filled out in full by the judge if and when the court agrees to appoint a lawyer to help you. You should only fill in the name of

the county at the top, the case number at the top, the judge's name at the top, and your name in the three blanks labeled "petitioner name." Do <u>not</u> sign this form.

- ❖ Name of County: Fill in the name of the county where you are filing this motion it should be the same county where you were in court years ago for the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- ❖ *Petitioner Name*: This is you. Write your entire name (first, middle initial, and last).
- Case Number: This needs to be the case number of the case that caused you to be placed on the registry.
- ❖ Judge: This needs to be the judge you intend to appear in front of for this motion. If the judge who presided over the case that caused you to be placed on the registry is still an active judge in the same court, then you should file your motion with that judge. If your old judge is no longer available, then you should call the office of the Clerk of the Court, explain the motion you want to file, and ask what judge you should file it with.

WHAT TO DO AFTER THE FORMS ARE FILLED OUT

Once you have filled out the forms completely, you will need to bring them to the juvenile courthouse in the county where the case that caused you to be placed on the registry took place. Specifically, you should bring the documents to the office of the Clerk of the Court.

You should bring the originals and at least four complete copies. You should make your copies <u>after</u> all the forms are appropriately filled out, signed if necessary, and notarized if necessary. The originals and all the copies should be assembled in packets with paper clips – one copy of each form per packet.

Tell the person behind the counter/desk that you are there to file a motion. The originals should be filed for the court file; the first copy is what is called a "courtesy copy" for the judge; the second copy needs to be delivered to the state's attorney's office; the third copy should be delivered to the public defender's office; and the fourth copy is yours for your records. You should ask the clerk to stamp the originals and all the copies with a "received" or "filed" stamp that indicates the date and time. The clerk will keep the originals; you should keep your copy. The clerk may keep the other three copies and deliver them for you, or you may have to deliver those copies yourself. If you have to deliver them yourself, the clerk should be able to direct you to the appropriate offices, which will usually be elsewhere in the courthouse.

Then, all that remains to do is to appear in court at the date/time you filled in on your Notice of Motion. You may or may not need to check in with the courtroom clerk. (This is probably not the same person whom you filed your motion with earlier. You will usually find the courtroom clerk inside or just outside the courtroom.)

When your case is called, you will be asked to enter the courtroom. Someone (often a clerk or the prosecutor) will announce your case and what you are asking for. The judge may have questions for you about your case or your intentions. You should answer all of the judge's questions honestly, and if appropriate explain your motion to the judge as follows:

- You want to petition to be removed from the juvenile sex offender registry;
- You understand that the law requires that you be represented by a lawyer to do so;
- You cannot afford to hire a private lawyer; and
- So you are respectfully requesting that the court appoint a lawyer to help you with your petition.

The judge may give the prosecutor an opportunity to agree with or object to your motion. Then the judge will either make a decision immediately or tell you when you can expect a decision.

Good luck!

CHECKLIST FOR FILING YOUR MOTION

☐ Not	of Motion (Form A)	
	No blank spaces remain	
	You signed your name where indicated	
П мо	n for Appointment of Counsel (Form B)	
	No blank spaces remain	
	You signed your name where indicated	
☐ Affi	vit of Assets and Liabilities (Form C)	
	No blank spaces remain	
	You signed your name where indicated	
	A notary public officially stamped/signed the final page	
Ord	Appointing Counsel (Form D)	
	You filled out the name of your county, the case number, and the judge's name	
	You wrote your name in the three spots where it is indicated	
	You did <u>NOT</u> fill out the remaining blank spaces	
	You did <u>NOT</u> sign this form	
1 4 co	es of each form	
☐ Cre	packets out of your originals and 4 copies	
_ 0.0	Each packet is in order with Form A on top and Form D on the bottom	
	Each packet's copy of Forms B and C should be stapled together with Form B o	n top
	of Form C	
	Each packet is paper-clipped together in order (Form A, then Forms B and C stapled together, then Form D)	
☐ File	ur motion	
	Make sure the clerk stamps each packet	
	Originals go to the clerk for the court file	
	One copy to the judge as a courtesy copy; one copy to the state's attorney's office	ce:
	one copy to the public defender's office	,
	Final copy is yours to keep for your records	

FORM A

Sample
Notice of Motion

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____ COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN TH	HE INTEREST OF)	Case No
)	Judge
)	Juage
	<u>NOTIC</u>	E OF MOTI	ON
То:	Assistant State's Attorney; Assistant	Public Defer	nder
			at 9 a.m. or as soon thereafter as I
may b	be heard, I will appear in the Circuit Co	ourt of	County, Illinois and
preser	nt the attached Motion for Appointmen	t of Counsel,	a copy of which is attached hereto and
served	d on you.		
		Resp	ectfully Submitted,
			Pro se
Name	Deticiona Nova		
Addre	Petitioner Name SSS:		
	Petitioner Address		
Phone	e:		
	Petitioner Phone		

FORM B

Sample
Motion for Appointment of Counsel

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____ COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE IN	NTEREST OF))))	Case No Judge
	MOTION FOR API	POINTMENT	T OF COUNSEL
	Petition	er Name	, who moves this Honorable Court te the requirement to register as a sex
	ursuant to the Illinois Sex Offende		
In s	support of this petition		states the following:
1.	Petitioner Name		
2.	Petitioner Name		adjudicated delinquent on
		_ in	County, Illinois.
3.	This adjudication requires regist	ration under S	ORA (730 ILCS 150/2).
4.	Pursuant to 730 ILCS 150/3-5, a	minor adjudio	cated delinquent for a sex offense and
	ordered to register as a sex offen	der may petiti	on the court for termination of the term
	of registration five years after re	gistration was	first ordered if the offense is a felony,
	and two years after registration v	was first order	ed if the offense is a misdemeanor.

5.		is eligible to petition the Court for removal
	Petitioner Name from the sex offender registry because	e the requisite time period has passed.
6.	Under SORA, a registrant seeking ren	noval from the sex offender registry must be
	represented by an attorney. 730 ILCS	150/3-5(g) ("at the hearing [regarding a
	termination petition], a registrant shall	be represented by counsel").
7.	Petitioner Name	does not have the means to hire an attorney
		ests that this Honorable Court appoint counsel
	to representPetitioner Name	with regard to a Petition for
	Registry Termination. See Affidavit o	f Assets and Liabilities, attached herein.
	Petitioner Nam	, based upon the foregoing facts e ay deem just and proper, respectfully requests that
uns Court	appoint counsel to represent	in petitioning for Petitioner Name
removal fr	om the Illinois Sex Offender Registry.	
		Respectfully Submitted,
		By:Pro se
Name:		
Address:		
<u> </u>	Petitioner Address	
-		
Phone:		
	Petitioner Phone	

FORM C

Sample
Affidavit of Assets and Liabilities

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____ COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF) Case No
) Judge
AFFIDAVIT OF	ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
Petitioner Name	_, on oath state that I am without adequate assets to the following statement in support of my request to be
appointed counsel:	
Petitioner Name	Date of Birth:
Phone:	
3. Family: (a) Marital Status:	(b) Number of Dependents:
4. Name and address of employer:	
Length of employment:	Occupation:
5. Earnings and sources of income:	Occupation.
(a) \$ per mor	nth from employment

(b)) \$	per month from pe	nsion, trusts, annuity	, welfare, Workers'
	Compensation, retir	ement or disability plan	n or any similar State	e, Federal, Local or
	private benefit plan			
(c)) \$	per month from ren	nts, royalties, bonds,	securities, or interest
(d)		per month from otl		ted herein:
(e)		TOTAL per month		
6. Va	llue of assets:			
(a)) Home or other dwel	lings: \$		
(b)) Other real property:	\$		
		ted:		
(c)		(Make:		
(d)) Other personal prop	erty (jewelry, househol	d contents, furs, etc.)): \$
(e)	Bank Accounts: \$			
(f)	Cash on hand: \$			
(g)) Surrender value of l	ife or annuity insurance	e policies: \$	
		onds: \$		
	Other assets: \$, as c	described herein
(j)		ets: \$		
7. Lia	abilities:			
(a)) Mortgage on home:	\$	Monthly payment:	\$

(b) Amount owed on car: \$		
(c) Personal debts: \$		
To whom owed:		
(d) Other debts: \$	_	
To whom owed:		
(e) TOTAL liabilities and debts: \$		
Petitioner		
STATE OF ILLINOIS)		
) SS COUNTY OF)		
Subscribed and sworn to before me on		
	,	
Notary Public		

FORM D

Sample
Proposed Order Appointing Counsel

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____ COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF) Case No
)) Judge)
PROPOSED O	ORDER APPOINTING COUNSEL
This matter having come befor	re the court upon the pro se Motion of
Petitioner Name	for Appointment of Counsel, it is hereby
	for the purpose of Petitioner Name Γermination from the Juvenile Sex Offender Registry.
preparing and intigating a retition for	remination from the suverme Sex Offender Registry.
	Honorable
	Date

SECTION 2

Working with Your Lawyer

(or Filing a Petition on Your Own)

This section tells you how to help your lawyer help you.

Or, if you prefer not to have a lawyer, how to argue your case yourself.

At this point, one of four things should be true:

- 1. Your motion for a free lawyer was granted by the court and the court appointed a lawyer to help you should have a free lawyer appointed by the court; *OR*
- 2. Your motion for a free lawyer was denied by the court and you are now going to try to file a petition on your own*; *OR*
- 3. You have hired a private/paid lawyer to help you file a petition; *OR*
- 4. You have decided you don't want a lawyer's help[†] and you are going to try to file a petition on your own*.

If you have a lawyer, this section will help you to understand the work your lawyer is doing on your behalf, and also to help him or her to help you. If you are moving forward on your own without a lawyer, this section will offer some guidance for investigating and writing your own petition for yourself. Because the particular tasks that have to be completed are largely the same either way, this one section can cover both situations. If you're planning to file a petition on your own, you'll just have to do more of the legwork (and all of the writing) yourself.

NOTE: If you are working with a lawyer, you should think of the information in this section as background information and/or additional advice. Your lawyer may tell you something different from what is written here – that does not mean he or she is wrong. Your particular case (or your county, or your judge) may require a strategy different from what is described here. Remember, you hired your lawyer to help you – so if you have questions, ask them.

^{*} Filing something with the court without a lawyer is called filing "pro se" (it's an old Latin term, pronounced 'pro-say') – so if you do file on your own, you may hear the judge or others in court refer to you or your case that way.

[†] Remember: As we wrote at the beginning of Section 1, the law allowing for these petitions seems to require that you have a lawyer representing you (that's why you could file the motion described in Section 1 asking for the court to appoint a lawyer to you). But, if you prefer to try to file a petition without a lawyer (or if the judge in your court denies your motion to appoint a lawyer), you can file on your own.

GATHERING INFORMATION

The law allowing for petitions for removal from the juvenile sex offender registry (730 ILCS 150/3-5) describes the various types of information the judge should consider when ruling on the motion. The bottom line is that the judge is basically supposed to take a good look at the petitioner—his or her past, present circumstances, and future—and then make as fully-informed a decision as possible. In the end, the law says that the judge can look at any information he or she thinks is relevant to the case. But the law also lays out 6 specific categories of information that the judge should be sure to consider:

- 1. A risk assessment performed by a qualified evaluator;
- 2. The circumstances of the petitioner's past sex offense/s;
- 3. Any evidence of the petitioner's rehabilitation;
- 4. The petitioner's age at the time of the sex offense he or she committed;
- 5. Any information about the petitioner's mental, physical, educational, and social history; and
- 6. Any "victim impact statements."

As you can see, there is a lot of information potentially available for the judge to consider. But the judge can and will only consider whatever information is provided to him or her by the petitioner or by the prosecutor. That is, the judge is not allowed to do his or her own investigation, so he or she will only learn about information if and when it is presented to him or her by the petitioner or the prosecutor.

You generally will have very little control or influence over what information the prosecutor decides to present to the judge. You or your lawyer should request access to the prosecutor's information prior to your hearing date – you should get advance copies of any documents the prosecutor intends to give the judge, and you should get the contact information for any witnesses the prosecutor intends to present to the judge.

The majority of the information presented to the judge, though, is likely to come from you. You will want to give the judge any and all information that will help to support your petition. That information may include (among other things):

- Juvenile court records (e.g. progress reports, case-closing orders);
- Juvenile probation records (e.g. completion records, progress reports);
- School records (e.g. diplomas, grade reports, special education documents like Individualized Education Program (IEP) forms);
- Treatment records (e.g. sex offender treatment records, counseling records, completion/graduation certificates);
- Employment records (e.g. offer letters, job applications, pay stubs); and

• Letters of support (e.g. from family members, friends, co-workers or employers*, former probation officers, victims).

You may have some of this information or some of these documents in records or files at your home. Getting other documents will require you to request them from the various agencies or offices that store them. This may include your former schools, the courthouse clerk's office, the juvenile probation office, former treatment providers, and others. Some of these places may require you to sign a form called a "release of information" before they will provide you with your records – this is particularly likely if your lawyer or someone else is requesting the records on your behalf. Of course you should make sure you read and understand any document before signing it, but releases of information are generally demanded for your benefit as a way of ensuring the general confidentiality of your private information.

Your former juvenile probation records may be particularly difficult to get because the probation department may not give them to you without a court order. If that is the case (and you can always try to get the records from the probation department without a court order first), your lawyer will need to file a motion with the court asking the judge to order the release of your records. A sample Motion to Review and Copy Probation Records, proposed court order, and Notice of Motion can be found at the end of this section as Form E. The samples are self-explanatory – the blanks to be filled in are basic information like county of filing, petitioner's name, case number (which is the case number for your underlying delinquency case from when you were a juvenile), and dates.

<u>Remember</u>: You do not have to give the judge (or anyone else) <u>all</u> the records you collect. You should collect what is available to you, and then make strategic decisions about which particular documents will be helpful to your case.

A Note on Victim Impact Statements

While "victim impact statements" are one of the 6 categories of information specifically mentioned in the law, they are not necessary. If you now have a healed relationship with the victim of your juvenile offense, and that person is now supportive of you and your petition, it could be very helpful to give the judge a statement or letter from him or her saying so. But if that person is not supportive of your petition, or if you have no method of contacting him or her, it is not essential that you do so. Except in the rare case of a victim who is now willing to actively support your petition, you should consider the "victim impact statement," if there is going to be one at all, to be the responsibility of the prosecutor.

* Of course, some people in your life may not know this aspect of your history. Do NOT jeopardize your job or livelihood for the sake of getting a letter of support from, for example, your employer. If you think a letter from a particular person might be very helpful, but you don't want to tell that person exactly what you need it for, you might try requesting just a general letter of recommendation that discusses, for instance, your work ethic and dedication to your job.

GETTING EVALUATED

As noted above, a risk assessment evaluation is one of the types of information the law instructs judges to consider when deciding whether to grant a petition for termination from the registry (see 730 ILCS 150/3-5). The risk that the evaluator will be assessing is your risk to re-offend sexually – that is, your current risk to commit another sexual offense. There is no rule saying how old or new the evaluation needs to be – but the more recent, the better (a good rule of thumb is never try to use an evaluation that is over a year old).

The law also requires that this evaluation be conducted by an evaluator who has been officially licensed under the Sex Offender Evaluation and Treatment Provider Act. This is a recent change in the law – previously, there was no official license and evaluators only had to be approved by the Illinois Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB). Unfortunately, because this change is relatively recent, there is no convenient list of officially licensed evaluators available. However, the SOMB's website

(https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/Pages/SexOffenderManagementBoard.aspx) still provides links to its old lists of approved providers – there are lists sorted by county, by name, and by agency. Many of those same providers have probably since become officially licensed. You will have to call and ask whether a particular provider has acquired a license. You should feel free to contact multiple providers until you find someone you are comfortable with.

Some factors to consider when choosing an evaluator include:

- Have you been treated or evaluated by this person before?
 - o Generally, it is not a good idea to be re-evaluated by someone you already know. You want someone who will take a fresh look at your case and be objective in evaluating you.
 - That said, it may be helpful to get an evaluation from another person in your old provider's office – this way, the new evaluator will have easy access to your old records, and may even give you a break on the cost (see below).
- Do you feel relatively comfortable sharing personal and private information with this person?
- Does this person evaluate and/or treat juveniles? Is this person familiar with the ways that juvenile sexual offending differs in general from adult sexual offending?
- Has this person ever conducted an evaluation like this before? (Petitions like these, and therefore evaluations like these, are relatively rare.)
- What will this person's evaluation process involve? Just a long interview with you? Interviews with other people in your life? Psychological testing of some sort?
- Is the location of this person's office convenient (or at least workable) for you?
- What is this person's timeline for completing the evaluation and written report?
- How much will this person charge for this evaluation?

A Note on Costs

You may find an evaluator who is willing to do your evaluation for free if you are unable to pay, but most evaluators will charge a fee. There is no such thing as a standard fee across the state for an evaluation like this; different evaluators will, in all likelihood, suggest a wide range of fees. You should feel free to get quotes from multiple evaluators before choosing one, and evaluators may be willing to negotiate the cost of an evaluation as well (particularly if you can demonstrate indigence).

When establishing a fee with an evaluator, make sure that your expectations are clear and that they are the same as the evaluator's. For instance:

- Is this an estimate? Or is this fee completely set in advance?
- Is this a flat fee or an hourly rate?
- Is this a fee just for the evaluation, or does it include the written report?
- Will there be any additional costs? (such as payments to outside agencies for "scoring" of certain psychological tests)
- Is there any assurance that the evaluator will stick to the timeline? (such as a discount if the report is late by a certain amount of time)
- If courtroom testimony from the evaluator is needed in the future, how much will that cost?

Some Expectations and Tips

- 1. Confidentiality: If you are going to a private evaluator, you should expect your information and any written report to be confidential meaning it will only be released to you or your lawyer. If the evaluator asks you to sign any sort of confidentiality agreement, make certain you read and understand it any exceptions to confidentiality should be very limited and clearly explained. If you get evaluated by a state or county employee (such as a probation department counselor), the confidentiality rules will likely be different make sure you understand them and who might have access to your information/report, and consider the pros and cons of moving forward with that evaluator before doing so.
- 2. *Appearance:* The evaluator will make note of your appearance. You do not need to dress up, but you should avoid looking sloppy or disheveled. This includes your clothes, hair, facial hair, and general hygiene.
- 3. *Attitude:* Your attitude during the evaluation will be important. The evaluator will understand if you are nervous because this process is important to you and some of the things you'll be discussing are personal and may be embarrassing. You should avoid appearing defensive, guarded, or defiant. But you should also avoid appearing to be too carefree. This is an important moment: be dignified and be open with the evaluator, and treat the evaluator and her/his guestions with respect.
- 4. *Talking about the offense:* The way you discuss the underlying offense in your case will be particularly important to the evaluator. If you have been through sex offender treatment, remember what you learned there. You can and should, of course, tell the evaluator how the situation has affected your life. But the evaluator

- will also be looking for you to focus on how the incident affected the victims and their families. Remember to express your empathy and remorse clearly.
- 5. *Documents:* The evaluator will likely want to review relevant documents in advance. Make sure you're very familiar with the contents of whatever documents you provide.
- 6. *Interview:* Although every evaluator handles things a bit differently, the interview will likely feel like a conversation (though you'll be doing most of the talking, of course). If you don't understand a question, you should feel free to ask for an explanation before you answer. The evaluator will likely ask you very personal questions related to your relationships and your sex life so be prepared for those sorts of things, and be open in your responses.
- 7. *Tests:* Some evaluators will use one or more "tests" as part of their evaluation. These are usually sets of questions with true/false, multiple choice, or some other standard set of possible answers. If your evaluator does use one or more of these tests, it will be an important part of the evaluation so do NOT rush through it or mark random answers. Take your time, read the questions, and answer openly.
- 8. *Interviews with family/friends:* The evaluator may want to conduct interviews with your family members, friends, or significant others. Evaluators are often curious to hear another person's perspective on you and your development. The evaluator should not contact anyone without your permission. So if there is someone you do NOT want the evaluator to contact, make sure to say so. If you do provide names and contact information to the evaluator, make sure to give those people advance notice that the evaluator may be calling. Obviously, do NOT give the evaluator the name of anyone who does not know your delinquency history or your registry status.
- 9. *Follow-up:* You (or your lawyer) should stay in touch with the evaluator after your interview takes place. The evaluator may request additional information. And, although you should not pester the evaluator, you should make sure s/he is on track to complete the written report on time.
- 10. *Results:* The ultimate conclusion of the evaluator's written report should be a simple assessment of your risk to re-offend sexually. This assessment will likely be somewhere on a spectrum from "low risk" to "moderate risk" to "high risk." Obviously, for your purposes, the lower risk the better. That said, you should not expect an assessment of "no risk." Clinical evaluators are not able to say anyone presents zero risk to re-offend, just like they cannot say anyone presents a 100% risk of re-offending. "Low risk" is the best the clinical evaluator can offer, and that is what you should hope to read in your written report. That said, if your report says something other than "low risk," you will still be able to move forward with your petition if you want but your path to success will likely be more difficult.

WRITING THE PETITION

Once you receive the written report from your evaluator, you should be ready to begin drafting your petition. The petition is a special sort of motion. Remember, a motion is a document used to ask a court to do something. The petition you will be writing now is simply a particular type of motion – you are petitioning (i.e. asking) the court to terminate your registration requirement and remove you from the registry.

Your petition, simply put, is your argument to the judge about why you should no longer be on the sex offender registry. This petition is NOT a place to explain your innocence of the underlying offense, or a place to explain why your original lawyer messed things up or didn't explain things, or a place to express your opinion that your trial or plea was unfair. This petition is not about the past – although it will mention events that happened in your childhood or adolescence, the petition should focus on the present. The focus should be on explaining to the judge the sort of person you have become – that is, who you are now.

As you outline and write your petition, you'll want to keep in mind the 6 factors that the law tells the judge to consider in these cases:

- 1. A risk assessment performed by a qualified evaluator;
- 2. The circumstances of the petitioner's past sex offense/s;
- 3. Any evidence of the petitioner's rehabilitation;
- 4. The petitioner's age at the time of the sex offense he or she committed;
- 5. Any information about the petitioner's mental, physical, educational, and social history; and
- 6. Any "victim impact statements."

Note that several of the factors focus on the past. Despite that, you'll still want your petition to focus on the present and those factors relevant to the present, like the risk assessment and your evidence of rehabilitation.

Ultimately, the law says you need to convince the judge that, more likely than not, you pose no risk to the community. You'll notice that this standard says "no risk," which is exactly what the previous section told you a clinical evaluator can never say. A clinical evaluator can never say never – but a judge can, and your judge will have to in order to grant your petition. The trick is that the judge only has to be convinced that you are more likely to be no risk than anything else. In legal language, this "more likely than not" standard is called "a preponderance of the evidence" standard, so you may hear the judge or prosecutor refer to it that way. Just think of it this way: In the end, you need the judge to be able to say, "After looking at the evidence and hearing the arguments from both sides, I am convinced that you are more likely to pose no risk to the community than you are to pose any risk."

With all that in mind, there are endless ways to organize your petition. The important point is to have an organization plan that makes sense and that the judge will be able to follow. Different methods of organization will work for different cases. One way to organize your petition would be to include a section on each of the 6 factors from the law (or, perhaps, five of the six factors, excluding information on victim impact statements if it is unhelpful to your case). Another would be to follow your development and growth chronologically, addressing the 6 factors where appropriate as you go. Yet another would be to trace the organization of your evaluator's written report (because it probably includes detailed information about most, if not all, of the factors). Whatever method of organization you choose, make sure that it draws the most attention to your most important points.

You will also want to attach exhibits to your petition – these exhibits are simply documents that you are offering to the judge as evidence. These documents might be the same documents you provided to your evaluator, or they might be some of those documents but not others, or they might include additional documents. While you don't want to overwhelm the judge with duplicative or unnecessary evidence, you should include important documents that support your arguments. Unless there is some special circumstance in your case, one of these exhibits will be the written risk assessment report prepared by your evaluator.

A sample petition and list of exhibits is attached at the end of this section as Form F. As you will see when you look at Sample Form F, the petition is organized into two major pieces: a "petition," and a longer piece called a "memorandum of support." This is not essential, but in many cases it can be a helpful method – with this method of organization, the petition itself is relatively short and mainly sticks to the basic facts, while the longer memorandum goes into more detail about the arguments and supporting evidence. The supporting memorandum is not essential – only the petition is necessary. But if you choose to only write a petition (with no supporting memorandum), you will probably want your petition to include more detail than does the sample "petition" portion of Form F.

You should feel free to use Form F for inspiration in writing your own petition. Obviously, the facts of your case will be different throughout, and the points you choose to focus on may well be different also. You want your petition to fit your case – so don't just thoughtlessly copy the language from a sample, but instead use the ideas in the sample to help you think about the best way to get your point across in your case.

Form F also includes a proposed order for the judge to sign if s/he decides to grant your petition. You and/or your lawyer should make sure that the language in the order is appropriate to your case. If the judge ends up writing her/his own order, make sure you agree with the final language chosen.

A Note on Local Court Rules

Your county's court system likely has its own rules for all sorts of topics, including the style of motions and petitions to be filed. Local court rules are usually available on the website

for your county's clerk of the court. If you have any questions, you should call the clerk's office and someone should be able to help you sort things out.

Generally, the style of Form F should be acceptable in most courts. However, you may encounter specific rules about, for example: whether you can include a memorandum of support along with your petition; what font the petition should be in; whether your petition and/or supporting memorandum must use numbered paragraphs; what information must be included in the heading (or "caption") at the top of the petition; page limits for your petition and/or supporting memorandum.

Pay attention to any specific rules you find. You don't want your petition to be rejected or dismissed due to a stylistic mistake.

FILING THE PETITION

When your petition is written (and edited) and you have gathered all your exhibits, it is time to file your petition with the court. If the judge who heard your original underlying juvenile case is still a working judge in the juvenile court, then you should probably file your petition with that judge (meaning that judge's name will go in the heading of your documents). If your original judge is no longer working in that courthouse, then you should ask the clerk of the court which judge to file with. In any case, the case number for your petition will be the same as the case number for your original underlying case.

The process for filing is very similar to the one followed in Section 1 for the Motion for Appointment of Counsel. You will need to write up a Notice of Petition that will advise the court of your motion and request a date for a court appearance. A sample Notice of Petition is included at the end of this section as Form G, and you can look to the instructions for the Notice of Motion in Section 1 (page 4) for assistance.

When you have assembled your Notice of Petition, Petition (including proposed order), and exhibits, you will need to make copies of the whole packet. Make sure you make the copies after you (or your lawyer) have signed any of the documents where a signature is required. When you go to file your petition at the court, you should bring the originals and at least four complete copies.

Tell the person behind the counter/desk in the clerk's office that you are there to file a motion. The originals should be filed for the court file; the first copy is what is called a "courtesy copy" for the judge; the second copy needs to be delivered to the state's attorney's office; the third copy is yours for your records; and the fourth copy is an extra (sometimes the clerk will suggest delivering a copy to the probation department). You should ask the clerk to stamp the originals and all the copies with a "received" or "filed" stamp that indicates the date and time. The clerk will keep the originals; you should keep your copy. The clerk may keep the other copies and deliver them for you, or you may have to deliver those copies yourself. If you have to deliver them yourself, the clerk should be able to direct you to the appropriate offices, which will usually be elsewhere in the courthouse.

CHECKLIST FOR FILING YOUR PETITION

□ Notice ○	of Petition (Form G) No blank spaces remain
0	You chose a court appearance date and time that works for your schedule
0 0	on for Termination of Sex Offender Registration (Form F) No blank spaces remain The petition is signed All exhibits are attached Proposed order is attached
4 copi	es of each (including all exhibits)
☐ Create	packets out of your originals and 4 copies
0	Each packet is in order: Notice of Petition on top, then Petition with exhibits and proposed order
0	Each packet is paper-clipped together in order
☐ File yo	our motion
0	Make sure the clerk stamps each packet
0	Originals go to the clerk for the court file
0	One copy to the judge as a courtesy copy; one copy to the state's attorney's office; one copy to the probation department (if the clerk advises)
0	Final copy is yours to keep for your records

APPEARING IN COURT

At this point, the next step is to appear in court at the date/time you filled in on your Notice of Petition.

But before that day, you or your lawyer may want to reach out to the prosecutor assigned to your judge's courtroom. The prosecutor is the opposing party on your petition – that means, the prosecutor is the person who will object to your petition and argue against you, if anyone does. It's a good idea to know the prosecutor's position or opinion on your petition in advance of your appearance date. That information will give you some idea what to expect on that initial appearance date.

If the prosecutor does not intend to object to your petition, then your case may be resolved on the date of your initial appearance – you may not even have to argue for your petition in court. If, however, the prosecutor does intend to object (or wants more time to decide), your initial appearance in court will likely be limited to setting a future date to return for argument.

When you appear in court, you may or may not need to check in with the courtroom clerk. (This is probably not the same person whom you filed your motion with earlier. You will usually find the courtroom clerk inside or just outside the courtroom.) When your case is called, you will be asked to enter the courtroom. Inside, someone (often a clerk or the prosecutor) will announce your case. The judge will usually then give you and/or the prosecutor an opportunity to explain why you're there and what you're asking for. This is when the prosecutor may ask for a "continuance" (i.e. another court date in the future), or if not then you can ask if the judge is ready to hear argument on the case.

On the day that the judge actually fully considers your petition—whether that day is the initial appearance or some date further in the future—you will be expected to present your petition to the court orally by making an argument. Simply put, this means that you need to say to the judge out loud the reasons for registry termination that you wrote down in your petition. You should NOT just read your petition – that will annoy the court. You don't need to say every last detail that you included in your written petition – think of this oral argument as an opportunity to remind the judge of the most important parts of your petition.

A Note on Dressing for Court

Courtrooms are formal places. You should dress as nicely as you are able. Lawyers, of course, usually wear suits to court. If you have a suit, feel free to wear it. But any nice clothes that you would feel comfortable wearing to church should be fine. If at all possible, do not wear shorts, T-shirts, revealing clothing, or flashy colors.

Three Basic Tips for Successful Argument

- *Make your case as simple as possible*: Boil your petition down to its essential points, whatever those are in your case. Maybe those are (1) a low risk assessment, (2) impressive education and employment record, and (3) a stable, long-term relationship with your significant other. Or maybe they're completely different in your case. Just keep it simple. (And short your argument probably doesn't need to last longer than 5-10 minutes.)
- *Use "signposts" to help the judge follow along:* Don't just ramble or spit out your arguments one after the other without stopping for breath. At the beginning, tell the judge what to expect from what you're about to say (for example, "There are three basic reasons I should be removed from the sex offender registry, and those reasons are: one, [insert reason]; two, [insert reason]; and three, [insert reason]"). Then, throughout your argument, return to those same "signposts" to remind the judge what you're talking about (for example, at the end of discussing your first reason, "So that is the first reason supporting my removal from the registry. The second major reason I should no longer have to register is [insert reason]").
- *Practice:* Don't try to wing it. Practice what you're going to say. Write it out in advance if you want. Make yourself an outline. Practice in front of the mirror. Practice in front of your friends and family. Ask them how you can make it more persuasive. Practice however you think will be helpful for you. Saying your argument to the judge should not be the first time you've ever said it out loud.

The prosecutor will get a chance to respond to your argument with her/his own argument if s/he chooses to do so. If the prosecutor does offer some argument, the judge will likely allow you to respond and have the last word – this is not essential, but if you can think of something to say in response that is in line with your original argument, you can do so.

When all argument is complete, the judge will either make a decision immediately or tell you when you can expect a decision.

Good luck!

FORM E

Sample
Motion to Review and Copy Probation Records
(including Notice of Motion and Proposed Order)

IN TH	HE INTEREST OF)))))	Case No
		NOTICE OF M	<u> 10TI</u>	<u>ON</u>
То:	Assistant State's Attorney	7		
preser	be heard, I will appear in the	e Circuit Court of _		at 9 a.m. or as soon thereafter as I County, Illinois and n Records, a copy of which is attached
			-	ectfully Submitted,
				Pro se
Name Addre	Petitioner Name Pess: Petitioner Address	S		
Phone	Petitioner Phone			

IN TH	THE INTEREST OF)	Case No	
		Judge	
	MOTION TO REVIEW AND COPY I	PROBATION RECORDS	
NO	NOW COMES PetitionerPetitioner Name	, in anticipation of soon	
	ng a Petition for Termination of Sex Offender Regist		
Court	art allowing Petitioner access to Petitioner's files and	l permission to copy the files without	
cost.	. In support thereof, Petitioner states as follows:		
1.	 Petitioner is required to register as a sex offende Registration Act, 730 ILCS 150/1 et seq. 	r pursuant to the Sex Offender	
2.	2. Petitioner anticipates filing a petition under 730 juveniles to petition the court to terminate the re		
3.	3. 730 ILCS 150/3-5 requires the court to consider information related to the adjudicated juvenile's "mental, physical, educational, and social history," evidence of rehabilitation, and "any other factors deemed relevant by the court."		
4.	4. In order to present the Court with a complete and Petitioner needs access to his/her own juvenile reby the County Juvenile Petitioner completed his/her probation. Access obtain essential information regarding the treatment adjudication.	ecords, including any records maintained le Probation Department, where to these records is necessary, in part, to	
5.	5. 705 ILCS 405/1-8(A)(1) indicates that "the mind inspect and copy the juvenile court records for the this statute states that "[t]he State's Attorney, the guardian, and counsel shall at all times have the	ne minor. Further, subsection $(C)(0.3)$ of e minor, and the minor's parents,	

- 6. Additionally, 730 ILCS 110/12(4) of the Probation and Probation Officers Act states that the duties of probation officers shall be: "To preserve complete and accurate records of cases investigated, including a description of the person investigated, the action of the court with respect to his case and his probation, the subsequent history of such person, if he becomes a probationer, during the continuance of his probation, which records shall be open to inspection by any judge or by any probation officer pursuant to order of court, but shall not be a public record, and its contents shall not be divulged otherwise than as above provided, except upon order of court" (emphasis added).
- 7. Therefore, under 730 ILCS 110/12 of the Probation Act, this Court has clear authority to enter an order allowing Petitioner access to Petitioner's probation records when appropriate, such as in the present matter.

Wherefore, Petition	er respectfully requests this	Court enter an order allowing Petitioner access to
Petitioner's probation	on file for case number	and allowing Petitioner to copy
the records without	charge.	
		Respectfully Submitted,
		By: Pro se
Name:		
Address:	Petitioner Address	
	Datitionar Dhona	

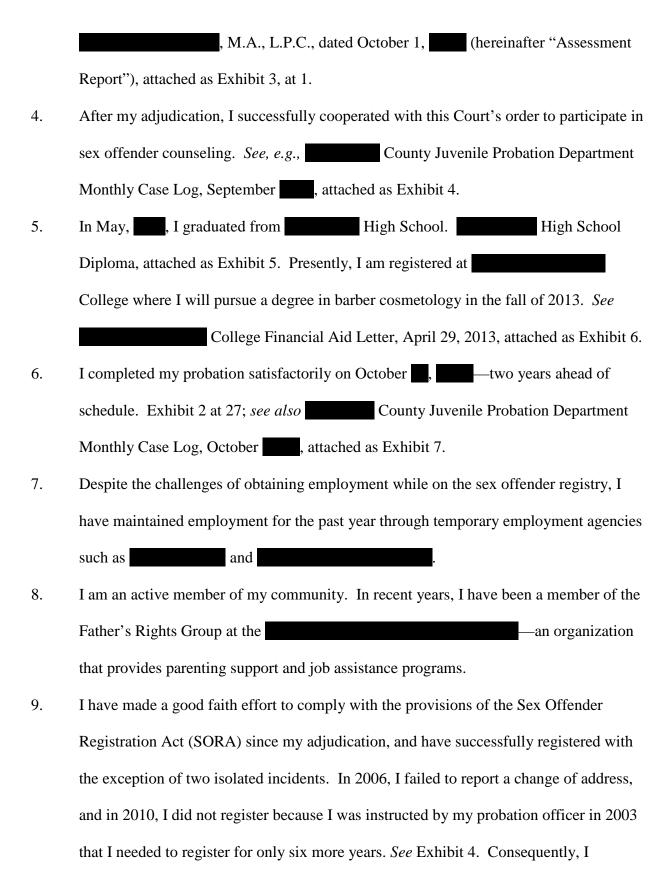
IN TH	IE INTEREST OF))))	Case No	
	PROPOSED	ORDE	<u>CR</u>	
	cause coming to be heard before the Honorab ereby ordered:	le	,	
1.	Petitioner is the minor-respondent.			
2.	. The County Juvenile Probation Department shall allow inspection by Petitioner of its file in this case for the purpose of potential termination of sex offender registration.			
3.	The Juvenile Probation Department shall pl of its file requested by Petitioner to assist P petition for termination.			
4.	The Juvenile Probation Department may / may not charge a fee for photocopying in this matter. If a fee is allowed, any fee shall be the same as that charged by the Clerk of the Court.			
5.	This case remains closed.			
		ENTI	ERED:	
		Judge	Judge's No.	

FORM F

Sample Petition for Termination of Sex Offender Registration (including Proposed Order and List of Exhibits)

NOTE: You will see that this sample petition is different than the other sample forms provided in this handbook. This is because, unlike the other documents offered as samples here, a petition is extremely fact-based. Because the facts of every person's case are so different, every person's petition will also be very different. So a fill-in-the-blank style sample just wouldn't be helpful here. What is included instead is an actual petition where the client's identifying information has been redacted, or covered up. Some facts have also been changed, and the petition has also been modified so that it is for a *pro se* petitioner.

IN TI	HE INTEREST OF) Case No.			
)) Judge			
	PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION			
	NOW COMES , pursuant to the Illinois			
Sex C	Offender Registration Act ("SORA"), 730 ILCS 150/3-5, and petitions this Court to enter an			
order	terminating the requirement that he register as a sex offender. In support of this petition,			
Petitio	oner states the following:			
1.	I, age 28, reside in Anytown, Illinois, with my long-term girlfriend,			
	. I am currently registered as a sex offender due to an Illinois			
	adjudication in			
2.	On August , I pled guilty to and was adjudicated delinquent of criminal sexual			
	assault. Petition for Adjudication of Wardship, June , attached as Exhibit 1;			
	County Juvenile Court Printout , August , attached as Exhibit 2, at			
	16-17. The underlying incident occurred in —over thirteen years ago. <i>Id.</i> At the			
	time of the incident, I was 15 years old.			
3.	In the thirteen years since my offense, I have had no subsequent arrests or convictions for			
	any kind of sexual offending behavior. See Sex Offender Assessment Report, prepared by			



completed eleven months in custody. Since these two isolated reporting lapses, however, I have not missed a single reporting requirement.

- 10. Ms. Ms. M.A., L.P.C., a licensed clinician approved by the Sex

 Offender Management Board, has determined that I do not need sex offender treatment and I understand how to avoid reoffending. Assessment Report at 2.
- 11. Ms. absence of high-risk indicators.
- 12. In particular, Ms. noted the absence of the following "Primary Indicated

 Treatment Level Factors":
 - Prior sexual convictions (besides the most recent offense)
 - Emotional identification with children
 - Sexual deviance related to sexual offending behavior
 - Any known stranger victims of sexual assault
 - Use or threatened use of a weapon in any sexual offense
 - Any known male victims of sexual assault
 - Other typically victimless deviant sexual interests

Assessment Report at 1-2. In addition, Ms. noted the presence of the following "Potential Modifying Factors":

- No sexual reoffending after previous sex offender treatment
- Six or more years in the community no sexual reoffending

Id. Finally, Ms. indicated the **absence of every single possible** "Other Historical Factor":

Prior sexual convictions

- Prior sexual charges not resulting in conviction
- Any noncontact sex offense convictions
- Additional allegations of sexually inappropriate behavior involving victims
- Sexual offense committed while on supervision for offense of any type
- Use of sexually explicit material involving adult subjects
- Use or making of sexually explicit material involving child (pre- or early pubescent) subjects
- Use of internet in offense
- Other evidence of sexual preoccupation

Assessment Report at 1-2. Based on the absence of these factors, Ms. has concluded that I do not need sex offender treatment. *Id*.

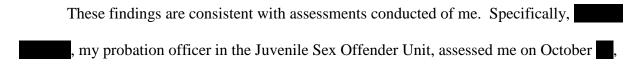
- 13. Ms. also relied upon my previous completion of sex offender treatment, healthy level of victim empathy, and understanding of the issues that led to my offending behavior as additional factors in coming to her conclusion. *Id*.
- 14. In sum, Ms. determined that I now understand the issues that led to my offending behavior, and as a result, am "aware of the necessary elements to avoid reoffending." *Id*.
- 15. I am exceptionally close with my family and draw support from a large network of friends and relatives. My uncle, ______, with whom I resided until recently, characterizes me as "a very productive young man who is trying very hard to accomplish his goals." Letter of Support from ______, attached as Exhibit 8. My grandmother, ______, further enthuses that I "ha[ve] a zest for life" and am

	"[a]lways willing to learn new things such as how to start a business." Letter of Support				
	from, attached as Exhibit 9.				
16.	Moreover, I have maintained a healthy and steady relationship with my girlfriend,				
	, for over a year. Presently, we reside together in Anytown, Illinois.				
17.	In accordance with SORA, "[t]he court may upon a hearing on the petition for				
	termination of registration, terminate registration if the court finds that the registrant				
	poses no risk to the community by a preponderance of the evidence." See 730 ILCS				
	150/3-5(d). In light of the evidence of my maturation, dedication to my education,				
	commitment to my family, absence of subsequent criminal sexual activity, and Ms.				
	's determination that I am not in need of sex offender treatment and am aware of				
	the necessary elements to avoid reoffending, a finding that I pose no risk to the				
	community is wholly warranted.				
WHE	REFORE, I, based upon the foregoing and such other grounds as this				
Honor	rable Court may deem just and proper, respectfully requests that this Court enter an order				
termin	nating the requirement that I register on the juvenile sex offender registry.				
	Respectfully Submitted,				
	Ву:				
	Pro se				
Name	: 				
Addre	ess:				
	Petitioner Address				
Phone	Petitioner Phone				

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

I. RESEARCH REGARDING JUVENILE SEX OFFENDERS AND THEIR EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR REHABILIATION SUPPORTS A DETERMINATION THAT I POSE NO RISK TO THE COMMUNITY

A robust body of research dedicated specifically to the recidivism risks presented by juvenile sex offenders conclusively demonstrates that juvenile offenders are, as a group, unlikely to reoffend either as juveniles or adults.* This is due to the "opportunistic"—i.e. non-predatory—nature of many of the sexual offenses committed by juvenile sex offenders, the natural maturation that juveniles undergo as they age out of adolescence, and the particular amenability of these young people to treatment interventions.† Such crimes of opportunity suggest that easy access rather than true deviance is at the heart of the wrongdoing. Specifically as compared to their adult counterparts, these young offenders' lower recidivism rates appear to be "consistent with some juveniles engaging in adolescent-limited offending patterns, as seen with other [non sex offense related] juvenile antisocial behaviors." In other words, what motivates adults to offend (and re-offend) is not the same as what motivates juveniles.



^{*} See Waite, D., Keller, A., McGarvey, E.L. Wieckowski, E., Pinkerton, R., & Brown, G.L., "Juvenile sex offender rearrest rates for sexual, violent non-sexual, and property crimes: A ten-year follow-up," Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 17, 313-331 (2005); Vandiver, D.M., "A prospective analysis of juvenile male sex offenders: Characteristics and recidivism rates as adults," Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 21, 673-688 (2006); Meloy, M.L., "The sex offender next door: An analysis of recidivism, risk factors, and deterrence of sex offenders on probation," Criminal Justice Policy Review, 16, 211-236 (2005); Miethe, T.D., Olson, J., & Mitchell, O., "Specialization and persistence in the arrest histories of sex offenders: A comparative analysis of alternative measures and offense types," Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 43, 204-229 (2006); Zimring, F.E., Piquero, A.R., & Jennings, W.G., "Sexual delinquency in Racine: Does early sex offending predict later sex offending in youth and young adulthood," Criminology and Public Policy, 6, 507-534 (2007).

[‡] L.R. Reitzel and J.L. Carbonell, *The Effectiveness of Sexual Offender Treatment for Juveniles as Measured by Recidivism: A Meta-analysis*, 18 SEXUAL ABUSE: JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND TREATMENT 401, 413 (2006).

offense "appears to have been opportunistic and situationally determined (babysitting)."

County Juvenile Court Services Sex Offender Assessment, October, attached as Exhibit 10, at 10.

Clinicians determine an individual's risk of sexual reoffending by assessing the presence or absence of certain risk factors and protective factors. Risk factors include deviant sexual arousal, lifestyle instability/criminality, sexual abuse of two or more victims, stranger victims, history of sexual victimization, prior sexual acting out, lack of concern for others, and antisocial interpersonal orientation. Other factors have been recognized by research and professional clinicians to protect against sexual recidivism. Protective factors include participation in sex offender treatment, time spent in the community without reoffending, knowledge of appropriate sexual boundaries, the ability to form close attachments, supportive family, and use of alternative coping methods to manage negative emotions.

As discussed in more detail below, a licensed clinician approved by the Sex Offender Management Board recently conducted an evaluation of me, reviewed my risk and protective factors, and concluded that I understand how to avoid reoffending and do not require sex offender treatment. Assessment Report at 1.

II. <u>I POSE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE RISK OF RECIDIVISM AND I MEET THE</u> STATUTORY CRITERIA FOR REMOVAL

I fulfill the criteria laid out for consideration by the Illinois statute, demonstrating that I pose no risk to the community. 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e). First, a risk assessment completed by a SOMB-approved evaluator concluded that I do not require sex offender treatment and understand "the necessary elements to avoid reoffending." Assessment Report at 2; *see also* 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(1). Likewise, I have never sexually reoffended, 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(2), and have

completed sex offender treatment, 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(3), both of which suggest that I pose no risk of recidivism. Finally, my sole sexual offense occurred when I was only 15 years old, over thirteen years ago, 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(4), and I have fundamentally changed my life's trajectory since then, as evidenced by my mental, physical, education, and social development. 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(5).

An Assessment Performed by a SOMB-Approved Evaluator Has Concluded that I
 Do Not Require Sex Offender Treatment and Understand How to Avoid Reoffending

On October, Ms. , a licensed clinician approved by the Sex Offender Management Board, completed a "Sex Offender Assessment Report" of me. Assessment Report at 1. In performing this assessment, the evaluator considered relevant information, including court history, relationships with service providers, and post-offense history. *Id.* at 1-3. The assessment was also based on an interview with me. *Id.* at 2.

Based upon this investigation and review, the assessment concludes unequivocally that I do not require sex offender treatment and understand "the necessary elements to avoid reoffending." Risk Assessment at 2. The assessment made this conclusion based on my absence of high-risk factors and the presence of numerous protective factors. *Id.* at 1-2.

The following "Primary Indicated Treatment Level Factors" factors were **not** observed for me:

- Prior sexual convictions (besides the most recent offense)
- Emotional identification with children
- Sexual deviance related to sexual offending behavior
- Any known stranger victims of sexual assault
- Use or threatened use of a weapon in any sexual offense

- Any known male victims of sexual assault
- Other typically victimless deviant sexual interests

In addition, Ms. noted the **presence** of the following "Potential Modifying Factors":

- No sexual reoffending after previous sex offender treatment
- Six or more years in the community no sexual reoffending

Finally, Ms. indicated the **absence** of every single possible "Other Historical Factor":

- Prior sexual convictions
- Prior sexual charges not resulting in conviction
- Any noncontact sex offense convictions
- Additional allegations of sexually inappropriate behavior involving victims
- Sexual offense committed while on supervision for offense of any type
- Use of sexually explicit material involving adult subjects
- Use or making of sexually explicit material involving child (pre- or early pubescent) subjects
- Use of internet in offense
- Other evidence of sexual preoccupation

Likewise, the assessment also indicates that I "[take] full responsibility for [my] offending behavior," completed sex offender treatment, and "ha[ve] a healthy level of victim empathy." Assessment Report at 1–2. In sum, the evaluation concludes that I do not need sex offender treatment and understand how to avoid reoffending.

2. My Young Age at the Time of Offense and Lack of Sexual Reoffending Demonstrate My Low Risk of Recidivism

My sole sexual offense occurred in November , leading me to plead guilty to the charge of criminal sexual assault on August , Exhibits 1 & 2. I had turned 15 years old

only weeks before the offense, which is a relevant factor under the statute. 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(4). More importantly, **I have never sexually reoffended since the original incident in**, over thirteen years ago. In concluding that I do not need sex offender treatment and understand how to avoid reoffending, the Assessment Report noted my extensive "[t]ime in [the] community with no-self admissions of, allegations of, or detected sexual reoffending."

Assessment Report at 1. My lack of sexual reoffending serves as an important protective factor against recidivism and constitutes a relevant factor under the statute. 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(2).

3. My Extensive Rehabilitation Provides a Bulwark Against Recidivism

My completion of sex offender treatment demonstrates his rehabilitation, another relevant factor under the statute. 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(3). Furthermore, according to ______, my probation officer at the time, I had "not only [] been able to work through [my] own issues but [had] been able to help others by using [my] own experiences both positive and negative to assist them to view their own thinking errors." _______ County Probation Department Progress Report, January _____, attached as Exhibit 11; see also _______ County Probation Department Progress Notes, December ______, attached as Exhibit 12 ("[he] has been cooperative and is making attempt[s] to learn [the] material. As indicated in the past, he is out of denial and can state what he did"). My exemplary attendance and engagement with group counseling has enabled me to mature into a young man with a "healthy level of victim empathy" and "no further offending behavior in the 11 years since the sexual offense." Assessment Report at 2.

Moreover, in her Assessment Report, Ms. ______ focused on my "very good grasp of sex offender treatment" as a protective factor, concluding that I understand "the necessary elements to avoid reoffending." Id. at 2.

4. My Positive Mental, Physical, Educational, and Social History Proves That I Pose No Risk to the Community

I have transformed from a troubled youth into an ambitious and resilient family man, reflecting my commitment to my loved ones and my capacity to evolve. I have developed several strong, healthy relationships. My year-long relationship with my girlfriend and my tight-knit bond with my family members all play a stabilizing role in my life. Furthermore, these relationships illustrate my positive social developments, one of the relevant criteria under the statute, 730 ILCS 150/3-5(e)(5), and show that I am a different man than the one who committed the offense thirteen years ago.

First, I have maintained a healthy, monogamous relationship with my girlfriend,

I have cultivated a year-long relationship with Ms. , and I currently reside with her in Anytown, Illinois.

Regarding my educational pursuits and success, in May 2003, I graduated from

High School. *See* Exhibit 5. Recently, I have registered at

College for enrollment as a full-time student beginning in the fall of 2013. *See* Exhibit 6. I will be pursuing a degree in Barber Cosmetology.

As with my employment history, my educational achievements and further aspirations prove that I have developed into a mature and responsible man who is striving to provide the best for myself and my family members.

III. CONTINUING TO REQUIRE ME TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER

DETRIMENTALLY AFFECTS BOTH MY WELFARE AND THE WELFARE OF

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND FAILS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL

SECURITY TO ILLINOIS CITIZENS

For individuals who do not pose a danger to the community, the stigma and restrictions associated with the SORA requirements can undermine rehabilitative progress by preventing them from successfully reintegrating into the community. Indeed, despite my educational and employment success, my life as a productive citizen has been significantly impaired by my sex offender registration requirements.

The registry severely impacts the possibility that I will be able to fulfill my goal of obtaining a higher-paying job.* In addition to employment, the SORA registration requirements reach all aspects of a citizen's life, including residency. 730 ILCS 150/1 *et seq*. The registration requirements have impeded my ability to obtain higher paying employment and clouded many of my future plans in ambiguity. Removal from the registry would thus permit me to move forward with my life and continue working to better myself and better provide for my family.

For offenders who pose a threat to the community, such restrictions, while extreme, may be justifiable. But for a former juvenile offender like me, whose sole sexual offense was thirteen years ago, who has developed strong relationships with his girlfriend and loving family, and who has proven his ability to make a positive contribution to society, such restrictions are not only unwarranted, they are counterproductive.

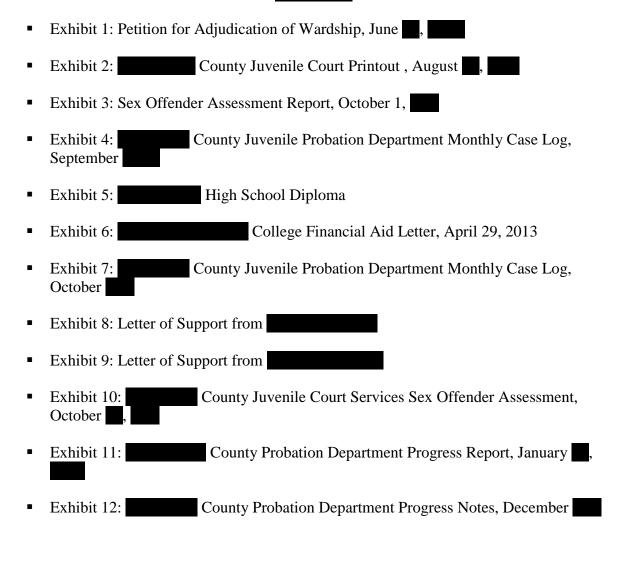
WHEREFORE, I, based upon the foregoing and such other grounds as this Honorable Court may deem just and proper, respectfully requests that this Court enter an order terminating my term on the sex offender registry.

		Respectfully Submitted,	
		By: Pro se	
Name:			
Address:	Petitioner Address		
Phone:	Petitioner Phone		

^{*} *See* American Bar Association, The Juvenile Collateral Consequences Project, *available at*: http://www.beforeyouplea.com/il.

IN TH	IE INTEREST OF))))	Case No. Judge
	PROPOS	SED ORDE	<u>ER</u>
This c	ause coming to be heard before the Hono	orable	,
follow	ving a hearing and the Court having jurisc	diction over	r the parties and the subject matter, it is
hereby	y ordered:		2
 Petition for Termination of Sex Offender Registration is <u>GRANTED</u>, pursuant to 730 ILCS 150/3-5; The Illinois State Police, Sheriff of County, Police Department, and other local sheriffs or police departments are hereby ordered to take any and all steps necessary to remove from the sex offender registry; This Court has determined that poses no risk to the community by a preponderance of the evidence based on factors set forth in the Illinois Sex Offender Registration Act; This case remains closed and this file is sealed, and no one but the State's Attorney, 			
	Petitioner's attorney, or Petitioner shall h		ERED:
		Judge	Judge's No.

EXHIBITS



FORM G

Sample
Notice of Petition

IN TH	HE INTEREST OF)	Case No
)))	Judge
	<u>NO'</u>	TICE OF PETITI	<u>ON</u>
To:	Assistant State's Attorney		
presei	be heard, I will appear in the Circu	it Court of	at 9 a.m. or as soon thereafter as I County, Illinois and egistration, a copy of which is attached
	j	Respe	ectfully Submitted,
		By: _	Pro se
Name	Petitioner Name		
Addre	Petitioner Address		
Phone	Petitioner Phone		