



Monterey County District Attorney's Office

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MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S CONVICTION REVIEW UNIT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) is committed to the pursuit of truth and justice. This pursuit does not end at the time of conviction. The MCDA, through the Conviction Review Unit (CRU), is committed to fairly reviewing claims of actual innocence or convictions by materially false evidence to ensure that justice is served.

REQUIREMENTS:

- The petitioner must have been convicted in Monterey County.
- The petitioner must have been convicted of a felony.
- The petitioner's appeals must be final and there can be no pending habeas corpus petitions.
- The petitioner must not have been convicted of a special circumstance as defined in Penal Code section 190.2. Special circumstances cannot be dismissed by law.
- The petitioner must claim actual innocence or a conviction due to materially false evidence (testimonial or physical).
- The petitioner must agree to fully cooperate with the MCDA, which includes the disclosure of all information relevant to the case.
- Petitioner must complete and submit the Conviction Review Request Form and all applicable waiver forms that appear below:
 1. [Conviction Review Request Form](#)
 2. [Central File Authorization Waiver](#)
 3. [CDCR-7385-Medical Records Release Waiver](#)
 4. [CDCR-7385-Psychotherapy Records Release Waiver](#)

Please email the Conviction Review Request Form and applicable waiver forms to CRU@co.monterey.ca.us or mail the forms to the following address:

Monterey County District Attorney's Office
c/o Conviction Review Unit
142 W. Alisal St., Suite A
Salinas, CA 93901

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

- If the petitioner is represented by an attorney, all communication with the MCDA will be made through that attorney.
- The CRU will not review ineffective assistance of counsel claims, claims regarding procedural errors at trial, claims that raise factual issues which do not tend to demonstrate the conviction is erroneous, or claims of improper time credits calculations.
- Before issuing a recommendation regarding the conviction, the CRU will consult with the law enforcement agency that made the arrest and with the victim(s).
- The CRU will review petitions and if the petition has merit, the MCDA will take whatever actions are needed to achieve justice.