

## DECLARATION OF DAVID DIXON

I, David Dixon, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and am of sound mind.
2. In St. Louis, you are guilty until proven innocent. Bond is set as a ransom of \$30,000 cash only. My family and I cannot afford to pay my bond. I was arrested by St. Louis police on January 10th and taken to CJC. The sheriffs transported me to what they called a hearing but was really just the judge talking to me for one minute.
3. Before this, the sheriff told me “you’re going to see a judge, just nod and say yes, sir and then come back out here.” I did not speak with a bond commissioner or anyone to ask for a bond reduction.
4. I had thought that I would have a chance to see a judge face-to-face to explain my situation. But I had to talk through a TV.
5. When the judge told me my bond amount of \$30,000, I couldn’t believe it. I was stunned. I heard someone say “that’s ransom!” I asked the judge where they expected me to get \$30,000. Judge Roither continued my case and said I should speak to an attorney. I tried to speak again but I was cut off by the judge. I cannot afford to hire an attorney and haven’t had a public defender assigned to me yet. I haven’t been back to court since that day.
6. My family is struggling because I am incarcerated. I am the caregiver for my paralyzed stroke-victim Vietnam vet uncle. My family hasn’t even told him that I’m incarcerated because he’s too sick and can’t get bad news like that. I am scared he will die while I am incarcerated.

7. I also provide financial support for my ten-year-old son Deshaun. I also help support my 17 year old son. It was his birthday on my second week at the Workhouse, and I missed it because I remain incarcerated.
8. I am a hard worker to support my family. I worked at my brother's car repair shop, the Best Autoplex on MLK Blvd. and for a temp service at Distribution Management Warehouse. But since I've been incarcerated and haven't been able to call anyone, I think I have been terminated from the warehouse job.
9. I have three sisters and one brother in St. Louis. I feel responsible for them and want to keep my promises, especially my promise to my grandmother to keep the family together. I could not be a flight risk - where would I even go?
10. Being incarcerated at the Workhouse has also been really hard. My bunkmate had a seizure and I watched the guards drag him face-first down the stairs to medical. The same night I felt my own eyes roll back in my head and realized I was having a seizure too. I have a history of epilepsy. The guards cuffed me and dragged me to medical. After 30 minutes of ice cubes and oxygen in medical, I was returned to my cell. I have bad migraines and very high blood pressure. I am not sure I will make it out of here. We are treated as animals and I am tired. I am a human and I just ask to be treated as one.
11. The food is horrible here. You get cornbread, a biscuit, and cake at every meal. The milk is diluted and off-white. Your food is cold and tasteless. I am unable to eat a lot of it.
12. The cells are also so unsanitary. When we try to organize to clean our cells, the COs tell us to stop because it will cause chaos as others will want to clean their cells too. There are bugs in my cell.

13. I observed three men on suicide watch left alone, naked wearing only green jumpsuits by the door, freezing.
14. It takes 2 to 3 weeks just to see a caseworker.
15. It is so cold at the Workhouse. In the corridors outside the housing units, it feels like outside. Water is seeping up through the floor, the roof is leaking, and there are holes in the windows.
16. At CJC before I was transferred to the Workhouse, conditions were also horrible. There were around 25 people kept in the holding cell, sleeping on concrete.
17. I am speaking up for myself but also so no one else has to go through this as I have had to. I wouldn't want anyone else to be here, to be another statistic, in a mad world where no one cares for us.
18. I declare under penalty of perjury that this declaration is true and correct.

Executed on January 25, 2019

  
David Dixon

## DECLARATION OF JEFFREY ROZELLE

I, Jeffrey Rozelle, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and am of sound mind.
2. I was arrested on January 15th. Sitting here, on a bond I cannot afford, without a day in court, I feel guilty until proven innocent. My bond was set at \$15,000 cash only without me having pretrial with a bond commissioner.
3. I saw Judge Roither through a video-hearing and wasn't able to talk to the judge. The sheriff told me not to say anything. I decided to still ask for 10% and the judge just said I had to wait until I retained legal counsel to file a motion. I cannot afford to hire a lawyer and have not been assigned a public defender. I had another court date on January 24, but I didn't see a judge and I just heard that my case was continued for another month.
4. I know that it takes weeks to get a lawyer and even if they file a bond reduction motion there is no guarantee that my bond will be reduced. It takes even longer because the sheriffs don't let you apply for a public defender while you are at CJC.
5. It feels like it is all a scheme. I know of many people who just decide to convict themselves because they cannot wait in jail.
6. I provide very important and needed care for my children. I have 4 teenagers who are 14, 16, 17, and 18. I mentor them so they will live good lives.
7. The Workhouse is horrible. It feels as cold as outside. There is plexiglass falling in. There are rodents. There is mold in the showers.
8. I am living a reality where when you are arrested, you know a ridiculous bond will be set so that you end up bullied into taking a plea. Missouri is thirsty to just arrest you.

9. I declare under penalty of perjury that this declaration is true and correct.

Executed on January 25, 2019

  
Jeffrey Rozelle  
Jeffrey Rozelle

## DECLARATION OF AARON THURMAN

I, Aaron Thurman, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and am of sound mind.
2. I was arrested on January 15th. I am in jail because I cannot afford to pay the \$30,000 cash only bond set by Judge Roither. I never had the chance to explain to the judge or a bond commissioner how harmful it will be for my family that needs me for me to remain incarcerated because I cannot afford this bond.
3. When I was arrested, I was taken to CJC to a holding cell. I had a video-conference with the court the next morning. On our way to the room for court, a sheriff deputy told the whole line of us that we would have to let the judge read us our charges and tell us our bond. The sheriff told us that we could not speak to the judge and that if we did, they didn't want to hear us.
4. I went off what the sheriff was saying and thought "don't say nothing to the judge."
5. That morning, I went before a judge. The judge spoke to me through a video TV. She read my charges. I just listened to what she said and a sheriff walked me out. I knew I couldn't say nothing. The only question she asked me was whether I had an attorney. I didn't have an attorney and cannot afford to hire one. I haven't been appointed a public defender yet.
6. The judge told me that my bond was set at \$30,000 cash only without explaining why the bond was that amount. I have not been back to court since that day.
7. I heard the judge talk to other people that morning and people all had different bond amounts. It seemed like the bonds were being set at random.

8. No one explained to me why my bond was so high. No one interviewed me before my bond was set and no one has interviewed me since then.
9. I cannot afford to pay a bond of \$30,000. My family could never afford that and keep living.
10. I am from St. Louis and have lived here my whole life. My girlfriend and I used to live together until I moved back to my mom's house to help care for my siblings and their kids in December of 2018. My sister is very sick and was recently diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer. I live with my three siblings, my mom, and my siblings' kids in St. Louis.
11. I have never missed a court date in a criminal case before.
12. My incarceration since my arrest has been very difficult for me and my family.
13. I moved back home to care for my sister. We are very close. My sister was pregnant and went into early labor. When my niece was born, the doctors learned that my sister has Stage IV cancer. My family has had to care for her since then and all the siblings have moved home so that we can all care for her together.
14. However, my siblings work so the care for both my very sick sister and my siblings' kids falls on me. I am my sister's full time nurse. During the day I do anything she needs and at night I will wake up to get her medication or care for her when she's in pain. I also care for my sister's four children, my other siblings' two kids, and my own three daughters. I am very close with my daughters. In the morning I will get all the kids ready for school, at night I will prepare dinner, play with them, bathe them, and get them ready for bed. By the end of my days I am exhausted but I know my family needs me.

15. Being here is so hard. I haven't been able to sleep. It is so hard to be here knowing what my sister is going through and what's going on at home. I keep everything in and can't even bring myself to get on the phone to talk to them I'm too sad.
16. On top of it, conditions at the Workhouse are so bad. It is so cold in the dorms at the Workhouse. The showers are disgusting. They smell like mold. There are 40 people in my dorm and only 2 showers that work. We have to clean them ourselves and all they give us is a spray bottle with disinfectant. There is only one phone that works. The guards never come in to supervise. The Workhouse is not a livable place.
17. I declare under penalty of perjury that this declaration is true and correct.

Executed on January 24, 2019



Aaron Thurman



## DECLARATION OF RICHARD ROBARDS

I, Richard Robards, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and am of sound mind.
2. I grew up in St. Louis and live in south St. Louis. I was arrested on January 10th. I went first to the Justice Center and was interviewed by a detective.
3. I'm in jail because I cannot afford to pay the bond set by the judge in my case. I never met with a bond commissioner or had any pretrial.
4. I was told by the sheriff that I couldn't talk when I went in front of the judge.
5. My bond was set at \$10,000/10% without anyone asking me questions.
6. When I went before the TV judge, he just read my charges and bond and then asked me to step out. He cut people off. I would have liked to ask for a bond reduction.
7. My family cannot afford my bail, I have to stay in jail. My family has debt and I have a son on the way.
8. I applied for a public defender because I can't afford to hire an attorney, but I haven't yet heard from them.
9. I have not been back to court since I saw Judge Roither.
10. In here, no one wants to do their job. This place is dirty, with black mold everywhere, with rats, and mice. The ceiling fell in upstairs so it is overcrowded downstairs.
11. Because I'm in jail, I missed when the mother of my baby son went to the ultrasound to find out the baby's sex. We will have a son in July.
12. Being in jail is so hard because there is no one to care for her.

13. I declare under penalty of perjury that this declaration is true and correct.

Executed on January 24, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Robards", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Robards