

**\*\*THIS IS A CAPITAL CASE\*\***

**EXECUTION SET FOR  
December 18, 2024 (from 12:01 am until Sunrise)**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

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TAHINA CORCORAN, as next friend for JOSEPH E. CORCORAN, Petitioner,

v.

RON NEAL,

Warden, Indiana State Prison, Respondent.

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On Petition for Writ of Certiorari  
to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

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**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS***

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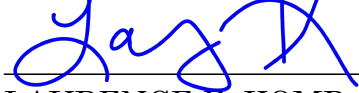
Petitioner Tahina Corcoran as next friend for Joseph E. Corcoran, through undersigned counsel, seeks leave to file his Petition for Writ of Certiorari without prepayment of fees and costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis* pursuant to Rule 39 of the Rules of this Court.

Mr. Corcoran is an indigent prisoner who is without funds to pay for the costs associated with this appeal. He has been declared indigent in all previous state and federal proceedings. Counsel was found appointed in the federal district court and in the Seventh Circuit pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3599. Counsel was appointed in the

Circuit Court of Allen County at trial and in post-conviction proceedings pursuant to Ind. Code 35-33-7-6 and Indiana Rule of Appellate Procedure 40(A)(1) respectively.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39.1, Petitioner therefore moves to proceed with this filing of his Petition for Writ of Certiorari *in forma pauperis*.

Respectfully submitted,



LAURENCE E. KOMP,\* MO. Bar #40446

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
SOUTH BEND DIVISION

TAHINA CORCORAN, as Next Friend  
on behalf of Joseph E. Corcoran,

Petitioner,

v.

RON NEAL,

Respondent.

CAUSE NO. 3:24-CV-970-JD

ORDER

Tahina Corcoran, as the next friend of Joseph E. Corcoran, filed a habeas corpus petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. ECF 1. Also filed was a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* and a motion for appointment of counsel.

Joseph E. Corcoran was convicted of a quadruple murder and sentenced to death by the Allen Superior Court. *Corcoran v. State*, \_\_ N.E. 3d. \_\_, No. 02S00-0508-PD-350, 2024 WL 5052384, at \*1 (Ind. Dec. 10, 2024). He is currently housed at the Indiana State Prison. This court has jurisdiction to entertain this habeas corpus petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d) because both the conviction court and the Indiana State Prison are within the geographical boundaries of the Northern District of Indiana.

The *in forma pauperis* petition asserts Joseph E. Corcoran is “unable to pay the costs or fees associated with his case.” ECF 2 at ¶ 6. Based on this assertion, the *in forma pauperis* petition will be granted.

The motion for counsel asks the court to appoint the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Western District of Missouri (WMO-CHU) under 18 U.S.C. § 3599. ECF 4. WMO-CHU has experienced death penalty lawyers and currently represents Joseph E. Corcoran in his other capital habeas case before this court. *See Corcoran v. Davis*, 3:05-cv-389 (N.D. Ind. filed June 27, 2005). WMO-CHU will be appointed.

For the forgoing reasons, the court:

- (1) GRANTS the *in forma pauperis* motion (ECF 2);
- (2) GRANTS the motion for appointment of counsel (ECF 4); and
- (3) APPOINTS, under 18 U.S.C. § 3599, the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Western District of Missouri.

SO ORDERED on December 11, 2024

s/JON E. DEGUILIO  
JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT