

JUDICIAL ADVOCATES

Federal Litigation Consultants

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO

Early Termination of Supervised Release

18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(1)

A Step-by-Step Guide to Completing Your
Client Intake Questionnaire

Understanding the Law · Documenting Your Compliance · Building Your Case

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PART ONE

Understanding Early Termination

What Is Early Termination of Supervised Release?

Early termination of supervised release is a legal mechanism that allows federal supervisees to ask the court to end supervision before the originally imposed term expires. If granted, you are released from all conditions of supervision — no more reporting, no more travel restrictions, no more drug tests, no more home visits, no more permission required for ordinary life decisions.

Supervised release was added to your sentence at the time of conviction. It serves three purposes: (1) to assist your transition back into the community, (2) to deter future criminal conduct, and (3) to protect the public. When those purposes have been substantially achieved through your conduct on supervision, continued supervision becomes unnecessary — and the law allows the court to terminate it early.

§ LEGAL AUTHORITY

18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(1) — The Early Termination Statute. The court may, after considering the factors set forth in § 3553(a), terminate a term of supervised release and discharge the defendant at any time after the expiration of one year of supervised release if it is satisfied that such action is warranted by the conduct of the defendant and the interest of justice.

In plain language: After you have completed at least one year of supervised release, you can ask the same court that sentenced you to end supervision based on your conduct during supervision and the interest of justice.

The Legal Framework

Three elements must be satisfied for early termination:

1. **Minimum One Year Completed.** The court has no statutory authority to terminate supervised release before you have served at least one full year. This is jurisdictional — there are no exceptions, no waivers, no early-petitions.
2. **Conduct of the Defendant Warrants Termination.** Your behavior during supervision must demonstrate that continued supervision is unnecessary. This means clean compliance — no violations, no missed appointments, no positive drug tests, no new arrests. The longer the period of unbroken compliance, the stronger the argument.
3. **Interest of Justice.** The court must determine that termination serves the broader interest of justice. This is where the § 3553(a) factors come in — the court considers the seriousness of your original offense, your history and characteristics, deterrence, public protection, rehabilitation, the kinds of sentences available, and the need to avoid sentencing disparities.

■ IMPORTANT

THE GOVERNMENT MAY OPPOSE YOU. The U.S. Attorney's Office is given the opportunity to respond to every motion for early termination. Some prosecutors oppose every motion regardless of merit; others defer to the U.S. Probation Office. We prepare every motion expecting opposition and ready to address it.

Who Is Eligible? (One-Year Minimum)

There is no categorical bar to early termination. Any federal supervisee who has completed at least one year of supervised release can file a motion. However, certain factors make success more or less likely.

Factors That Strengthen Your Case

- Sustained, unbroken compliance — every appointment kept, every test passed, every condition followed during the period of supervision you have served
- Zero violations, missed appointments, or failed drug tests
- Reduction in reporting frequency — proves USPO has determined you are low-risk
- Steady, verifiable employment
- Stable, long-term housing
- Family stability and responsibilities
- All financial obligations paid in full or current
- Volunteer work, community involvement, faith-based participation
- Educational or vocational achievement during supervision
- Acceptance of responsibility and demonstrated insight
- USPO support — or at minimum, no opposition

Factors That Weaken Your Case

- Less than one year on supervision (you cannot file at all)
- Any violations — even minor ones — in the recent past
- Outstanding restitution, fines, or special assessments
- Recent law enforcement contact, even without arrest
- Positive drug tests or refusal to test
- Failure to complete court-ordered treatment or programming
- Unstable employment or housing
- USPO opposition (often dispositive)
- Pending civil or criminal matters

The § 3553(a) Sentencing Factors

When deciding whether termination serves the interest of justice, courts apply the same factors they applied at sentencing — but now in light of your post-sentencing conduct on supervision.

§ LEGAL AUTHORITY

Under 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(1), the court considers the factors in § 3553(a)(1), (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), (a)(2)(D), (a)(4), (a)(5), (a)(6), and (a)(7):

- § 3553(a)(1) — nature and circumstances of the offense; history and characteristics of the defendant
- § 3553(a)(2)(B), (C), (D) — adequate deterrence; protection of the public; rehabilitation
- § 3553(a)(4) — the kinds of sentences and Guidelines ranges established
- § 3553(a)(5) — pertinent policy statements
- § 3553(a)(6) — the need to avoid unwarranted sentencing disparities
- § 3553(a)(7) — the need to provide restitution to victims

For each factor, your motion must demonstrate that the original sentencing goal has already been substantially accomplished — or that continued supervision will not advance it further. This is what your conduct on supervision proves.

Recent Authority: Your Conduct Matters More Than Time Served

Until recently, some federal district courts maintained informal practices of refusing to consider early termination motions until the petitioner had served some fixed percentage of their supervision — commonly 50%, sometimes 75%. The federal courts of appeals have now rejected this practice.

In April 2026, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decided *United States v. Collins*, reversing a district court that had denied early termination based on its "custom" of requiring defendants to complete at least half of their supervision. The court of appeals held that this approach was an abuse of discretion. The standards Congress wrote into § 3583(e)(1) are the one-year jurisdictional minimum, the conduct of the defendant, and the interest of justice — and the court must conduct an individualized § 3553(a) analysis on every motion that meets that one-year minimum.

§ LEGAL AUTHORITY

United States v. Collins, Case No. 25-5395, 2026 U.S. App. LEXIS 9438 (6th Cir. April 1, 2026):

"District courts cannot employ a blanket rule requiring defendants to complete a certain proportion of their supervised-release term without conducting an individualized assessment of the relevant § 3553(a) factors."

"The amount of time a defendant has served cannot be the sole animating force behind a court's early-termination decision — the statute mandates that such decisions flow from individualized inquiries based on the relevant § 3553(a) factors."

Collins is binding precedent in the Sixth Circuit (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee) and persuasive authority in every other circuit. After *Collins*, every supervisee with at least one year of clean compliance is entitled to an individualized review on the merits — not a categorical denial based on time served.

✓ PRACTICE TIP

IF YOUR RECORD IS GOOD, FILE. Before *Collins*, some clients waited years past the one-year mark to file because they assumed they had to serve 50% or 75% to be heard. After *Collins*, that assumption is wrong. If you have completed at least one year of supervision with clean compliance, stable employment, no violations, and a concrete reason termination would help you, you are a candidate. The law now favors individualized review of your circumstances — not categorical waiting.

What Courts Look For

Courts grant early termination when the petitioner has demonstrated, through actual conduct on supervision, that continued supervision serves no further purpose. The strongest motions show:

4. Sustained compliance. Years of unbroken compliance — every appointment kept, every test passed, every condition followed. Not perfection in the past, but sustained adherence in the present.
5. Reduced supervision intensity. The USPO has voluntarily reduced your reporting frequency or moved you to a low-risk caseload, indicating they no longer view you as needing intensive monitoring.
6. Productive engagement. Stable employment, family responsibilities, community involvement — your life has the structure that supervision was designed to encourage.
7. Specific hardship. Continued supervision creates concrete obstacles — to travel for work, to a professional license, to housing, to immigration relief, to family reunification. Generic complaints about supervision rarely succeed; specific, verifiable hardships often do.
8. Self-direction. You have internalized the rules. You comply not because you are watched but because the conduct expected of supervisees has become how you live.

✓ PRACTICE TIP

THE TWO QUESTIONS COURTS ASK. Every early termination decision boils down to two questions: (1) Is this person still a risk that requires monitoring? (2) Is supervision still doing any work that justifies its costs and burdens? Your motion must answer both questions with overwhelming evidence drawn from your actual conduct on supervision.

Common Reasons Motions Are Denied

9. Insufficient demonstration of conduct. The strength of your motion comes from documented, sustained compliance during supervision — not from any percentage of time served. Recent appellate authority (*United States v. Collins*, 6th Cir. 2026) confirms that courts cannot use blanket percentage rules to deny motions; they must conduct an individualized § 3553(a) analysis on every motion that meets the one-year statutory minimum.
10. Recent violations. Any violation in the prior 12–24 months is generally fatal. Courts want sustained, not sporadic, compliance.
11. Outstanding restitution. Most courts will not terminate while restitution remains unpaid. This is essentially a categorical bar.
12. No specific reason. "I just want to be done with supervision" is not enough. Courts grant termination when there is a concrete reason — a hardship, an opportunity, a need.
13. USPO opposition. When the supervising probation officer recommends against termination, courts almost always defer. We work to understand and address USPO concerns before filing.
14. Pending matters. Pending charges, pending civil litigation, pending immigration proceedings — anything unresolved makes courts cautious.
15. Serious offense or public concern. For violent offenses, sex offenses, or high-profile cases, courts are reluctant to terminate even with strong compliance.

PART TWO

Completing Your Questionnaire

This part walks you through every question on the intake questionnaire, explains what we are asking and why, and provides examples and tips where useful. Take your time. The strength of your motion depends on the completeness and honesty of your answers here.

Section I: Client Identification (Questions 1-8)

This section gathers the basic identifying information needed to prepare your motion and confirm that the person filing matches the person sentenced.

■ Question 1: Full Legal Name

Provide your full legal name exactly as it appears on your Judgment & Commitment Order. If you have legally changed your name since sentencing — for example, through marriage, divorce, or a court-ordered name change — provide both the name on your J&C and your current legal name. The motion will identify you by both.

■ Question 2: Other Names (Aliases, AKAs)

List any other names you have used — maiden names, married names, AKAs that appeared in indictments, nicknames the government used. The government may search for you under any of these names; consistency prevents identity confusion in the court record.

■ Questions 3-4: Date of Birth and SSN (Last 4)

Used for positive identification. Your date of birth also appears on your J&C. We use only the last four digits of your Social Security Number — never the full number — to protect against identity theft.

■ Question 5: Current Mailing Address

Where you live now. This must match the address you have on file with your USPO. If your USPO records show a different address than where you actually live, that is itself a violation that must be corrected before you file.

■ Questions 6-7: Cell Phone and Email

How we reach you during the case. Confirm both before submitting — court communications and our updates depend on accuracy. If your phone or email changes, notify us immediately.

■ Question 8: Preferred Contact Method

Tell us how you prefer to receive case updates — phone, email, or text. We accommodate. Some clients prefer email for documentation; others prefer phone calls for important conversations. Indicate your preference.

Section II: Emergency Contact

This is the person we contact if we cannot reach you. It is also the person who often helps gather documents — employer letters, USPO records, medical records, support letters from family. Pick someone reliable, accessible, and trusted: your spouse, parent, adult child, or a close friend.

Indicate whether they are authorized to receive case-related information. If authorized, we may discuss the case with them when you are unavailable. If not authorized, we will only confirm whether we are working on your case and ask them to relay messages.

✓ PRACTICE TIP

PICK SOMEONE WHO WILL ACTUALLY HELP. Your emergency contact should be someone you can ask to make phone calls, gather documents, and follow up on your behalf when life gets busy. The most successful cases involve a strong support person who keeps things moving when the client cannot.

Section III: Criminal Case & Conviction (Questions 9–16)

WHY WE ASK

Your motion is filed before the same judge who sentenced you. We must know the exact case details, the nature of your offense, and any factors — like cooperation or violence — that will shape how the judge views your motion. None of this is changeable, but it is the foundation on which we build.

■ Question 9: Federal Criminal Case Number

Your case number appears on your J&C, near the top. It includes the district, year, "cr" (criminal), case number, and judge initials. Copy it exactly — for example: "4:19-cr-00123-DPM".

FINDING YOUR CASE NUMBER

If you do not have a copy of your J&C, your USPO has one. You can also obtain it from PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) for a small per-page fee — your family member can do this for you. The Clerk of Court for your sentencing district can also provide certified copies for a fee.

■ Question 10: Federal District and Division

The exact federal district and (if applicable) division — for example, "U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Western Division." This appears on the top of your J&C and any docket sheet.

■ Question 11: Sentencing Judge

Critical. Your motion goes to this same judge — not a different judge in the same district. We research every judge before filing: their early-termination grant rate, their preferred argument style, their track record with motions like yours. Get the judge's name exactly as it appears on the J&C.

✓ PRACTICE TIP

JUDGE-SPECIFIC TAILORING. Different judges respond to different arguments. Some are persuaded by data; others by personal narrative. Some emphasize the conduct prong of § 3583(e)(1); others focus heavily on the § 3553(a) factors. We prepare every motion to fit the judge — not a generic template.

■ Question 12: AUSA Name (if known)

The Assistant U.S. Attorney who prosecuted your case. The AUSA who responds to your motion may or may not be the same person. Knowing who originally handled the case helps us anticipate the government's position and arguments.

■ Question 13: Offenses of Conviction

List every count, statute, and the sentence imposed on each. Use the J&C — copy it exactly. The nature of your offense significantly affects strategy. Drug offenses, fraud, and white collar offenses tend to fare

better than offenses involving violence, weapons, sexual misconduct, or vulnerable victims. Honesty here is essential — judges have access to PACER and will see exactly what you were convicted of.

EXAMPLE

Count 1: Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, 21 U.S.C. § 846 — 84 months

Count 2: Possession with Intent to Distribute, 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) — 84 months concurrent

Followed by 5 years supervised release

■ Question 14: Was a Firearm or Violence Involved?

Crimes of violence and firearm offenses face heightened scrutiny on early termination motions. If a firearm was involved, courts examine whether it was used or merely possessed, whether it was charged separately under § 924(c), and whether the offense is classified as a "crime of violence" under federal law. Be honest. We address these factors directly rather than hoping the court overlooks them.

■ Question 15: Type of Plea

How you were convicted matters. A guilty plea suggests acceptance of responsibility. A trial verdict shows you exercised your constitutional right but did not formally accept responsibility (this is not held against you, but it is part of the picture). A plea agreement may have included cooperation, charge reductions, or sentencing recommendations that affect how the court views you today.

■ Question 16: Cooperation

If you cooperated with the government — whether through a 5K1.1 motion at sentencing or a Rule 35 motion afterward — this is favorable. Cooperation demonstrates acceptance of responsibility and a willingness to make amends. It is also relevant to public safety: cooperators have already shown that they identify with the law-abiding community, not the criminal one.

Section IV: Sentence & Supervision Terms (Questions 17–24)

WHY WE ASK

Time on supervision is part of the picture — but it is not the whole picture. The court must conduct an individualized § 3553(a) analysis based on your conduct and the interest of justice. Under § 3583(e)(1), the court has no power to act until at least one year has passed; after that, your eligibility is governed by the strength of your record, not by any blanket percentage rule. See *United States v. Collins* (6th Cir. 2026).

■ Question 17: Total Imprisonment

The full sentence imposed, as stated on your J&C. If multiple counts ran concurrent or consecutive, note the aggregate.

■ Question 18: Supervised Release Term

The term of supervised release imposed at sentencing. This is the term we are seeking to terminate. List it exactly as on the J&C — for example, "5 years" or "3 years."

■ Question 19: Date SR Commenced

The date you actually began supervised release — typically the date you were released from BOP custody. Your USPO will confirm this exact date if you are unsure. The clock for the one-year minimum starts running on this date.

■ Question 20: Projected SR End Date

The date supervision is currently scheduled to end. Calculated by adding the SR term length to the SR commencement date. Your USPO can confirm.

■ Questions 21–22: Time on SR to Date and % Completed

These numbers tell the story of how long you have demonstrated compliance — but they are not gatekeeping thresholds. Recent appellate authority (*United States v. Collins*, 6th Cir. 2026) confirms that courts cannot use blanket percentage rules to deny early termination motions; they must conduct an individualized analysis of the § 3553(a) factors. The strength of your motion comes from your conduct on supervision and the concrete reasons you no longer need supervision — not from any particular percentage of time served.

EXAMPLE

If your supervised release term is 5 years (60 months) and you have completed 18 months — with no violations, steady employment, all financial obligations current, and concrete reasons termination would advance your reintegration — you are a candidate to file now. The legal question is whether your conduct warrants termination, not whether you have crossed an arbitrary percentage line. Document the conduct, build the case, and file when you have a real basis to do so.

✓ PRACTICE TIP

YOUR CONDUCT MATTERS MORE THAN A PERCENTAGE. Recent federal appellate authority — United States v. Collins, Case No. 25-5395 (6th Cir. April 1, 2026) — has rejected blanket percentage rules. The Sixth Circuit held that "district courts cannot employ a blanket rule requiring defendants to complete a certain proportion of their supervised-release term." If you have completed at least one year of clean compliance with stable employment, financial responsibility, and concrete reasons termination would help you, the law now requires the court to consider your specific circumstances — not just your time served. Do not wait based on a rule that the law does not require.

■ Question 23: Financial Obligations

Restitution, fines, special assessments, and current monthly payment amounts. Most courts will not grant early termination while restitution remains delinquent. If you are paid in full, this is a strong fact. If you are current on payments and on track to complete them on schedule, this is also favorable. If you are behind, we need to know — and we may need to address a payment plan before the motion is filed.

■ IMPORTANT

DELINQUENT RESTITUTION IS USUALLY FATAL. Courts treat restitution as a debt to victims of your offense. They do not terminate supervision while that debt remains outstanding and unpaid. If you are behind on restitution payments, prioritize getting current before filing — even if it means delaying your motion by several months.

■ Question 24: List ALL Conditions of Supervised Release

Copy every condition exactly from your J&C. Standard conditions, special conditions, drug testing requirements, treatment requirements, association restrictions, travel restrictions, financial obligations — list them all. For each, note your compliance status.

This list serves two purposes: (1) it confirms we understand exactly what you are subject to, and (2) it demonstrates to the court that you understand and have complied with each condition. A complete, accurate list shows attention to detail and respect for the rules.

Section V: Compliance History (Questions 25–30)

■ IMPORTANT

COMPLETE HONESTY IS ESSENTIAL. Your USPO maintains records of every violation, missed appointment, and failed test. The court will see those records. If your motion misstates your history, your credibility is destroyed — and credibility is the central currency of an early termination motion. We can address setbacks if we know about them. We cannot recover from surprises.

■ Question 25: Have You Had Any Violations?

A violation is anything the USPO documented as a breach of your conditions. This includes both technical violations (missed appointments, failed drug tests, association violations, travel violations) and substantive violations (new arrests, new charges). Even a violation that did not result in revocation must be disclosed.

If you have had violations, we address them — we explain when they occurred (often early in supervision, when adjustment is hardest), how you have changed since, and what the duration of clean compliance has been since the last violation. A long stretch of clean conduct after an early stumble is recoverable. A recent violation is much harder.

■ Question 26: Missed USPO Appointments

Document every missed appointment — even ones that were rescheduled and made up. Courts understand emergencies and miscommunications. They do not understand patterns of unreliability. If you missed an appointment, explain why, what you did to cure it, and how long ago it was.

■ Question 27: Drug/Alcohol Testing

Be specific. "All tests passed" is the strongest possible answer. Failed tests must be explained — when, what substance, what the consequence was, what treatment followed, and how long you have been clean since. Recent failures (within 1–2 years) are generally fatal to early termination; older failures (3+ years ago) followed by sustained sobriety are recoverable with strong documentation.

■ Question 28: Arrests or Police Contact

Even an arrest that did not result in charges must be disclosed. Police contact during supervision is a significant fact. The USPO knows about it, and the AUSA knows about it. Hiding it does nothing but destroy your credibility when the government raises it in their response.

■ Question 29: Treatment/Programs Completed

Document every program you were ordered to complete. "Completed all" is the strongest answer — list each program with completion date. Programs in progress should be noted with expected completion date. Programs not yet started — without a credible reason — weaken your motion. If a program is unavailable in your area or you have been waitlisted, document those facts.

■ Question 30: Modifications to Supervision Conditions

Has any condition been added, removed, or modified during supervision? A modification removing a condition (no more drug testing, reduced reporting frequency, removal of a special condition) is favorable evidence — it means the supervising authority itself determined the condition was no longer needed. A modification adding a condition (additional treatment after a violation, GPS monitoring, residency restriction) requires explanation.

Section VI: U.S. Probation Office Position (Questions 31–38)

WHY WE ASK

The USPO's position carries enormous weight. If your supervising officer supports early termination, that is the single most persuasive factor in your motion. If they oppose it, we need to know — and we need to address it strategically. Many courts will not grant termination over USPO opposition.

■ Questions 31–34: USPO Identity and District

The full name and contact information for the supervising probation officer, plus the district where you are supervised (if different from the sentencing district — this matters because some districts have different termination practices, and the supervising district's USPO will provide the recommendation regardless of where you were sentenced).

■ Question 35: Have You Discussed Early Termination with Your USPO?

A direct conversation with your USPO before filing is almost always wise. It signals respect for the supervising officer's role and lets you gauge their position. We may advise specific approaches, talking points, and timing before you have this conversation. Some clients have it before retaining us; others have it after we begin work. Either way, we want to know where the USPO stands.

■ Question 36: USPO's Response

Document the response carefully and specifically. "Supportive" means they affirmatively favor termination — golden. "Opposed" means they actively against — we must address their reasons. "Neutral / no opinion" is usable — many USPOs decline to take a position, which is functionally favorable. "Said wait longer" tells you exactly how long you should wait before filing — listen to that advice.

✓ PRACTICE TIP

A USPO ENDORSEMENT IS GOLD. If your supervising officer will write a letter or sign a memo supporting early termination, that single document is often dispositive. If they will not formally endorse but will not oppose, that is the next-best position. If they will oppose, we file only when we have specific reasons that override their concerns — and we address those reasons head-on in the motion.

■ Question 37: Relationship with USPO

Tell us frankly. A constructive, respectful relationship suggests you have engaged with supervision rather than just tolerating it. If the relationship has been strained, we need to know why. Sometimes USPO concerns are legitimate and we must address them; sometimes they are personal and we must work around them. Either way, the court will likely defer to the USPO's view, so understanding the relationship is essential.

■ Question 38: Reduced Reporting Frequency

A reduction in reporting frequency — from monthly to quarterly, or quarterly to annually, or being placed on a "low-risk caseload" — is documentary evidence that the USPO has officially classified you as low-risk. This is powerful evidence for your motion. Note both your current and original reporting frequency, and the date the reduction occurred.

§ LEGAL AUTHORITY

AO Form 235A and Low-Intensity Supervision. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has formal procedures for transferring supervisees to low-intensity caseloads when their risk profile warrants it. If you have been transferred to low-intensity supervision, the USPO has made an institutional finding that you do not require active monitoring — which is functionally a finding that supports early termination.

Section VII: Restricted Conduct Compliance (Questions 39–43)

These five questions cover the most commonly violated conditions. A "Yes" is not necessarily fatal — but every "Yes" must be addressed honestly and explained in detail.

■ Question 39: Contact with Convicted Felons

Most supervised release agreements prohibit unauthorized contact with convicted felons. If you live in a small community, work in industries that employ many people with records, or have family members with felony convictions, this can become an issue. Disclose any incidental contact, whether you sought permission, and how the situation was handled.

■ Question 40: Firearms

Federal supervisees are prohibited under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) from possessing firearms or ammunition for life — not just during supervision. Any contact with firearms — even handling a relative's firearm at a gun range, even in a state where felons can possess firearms under state law — is a violation under federal law. Be absolutely candid here. This is the single most strictly enforced restriction.

■ Question 41: Controlled Substances

Includes prescription drugs taken outside their prescription, any illegal substances, and (in many cases) cannabis even where state-legal. Federal supervised release rules treat cannabis as a controlled substance regardless of state law because federal law still classifies cannabis as Schedule I. If you have used cannabis under state law, that is technically a federal supervision violation.

■ Question 42: Alcohol

Many supervised release agreements either prohibit alcohol entirely ("shall not consume any alcohol") or prohibit excessive consumption ("shall not consume alcohol to excess"). Indicate your compliance with whatever your specific condition requires. If your conditions did not restrict alcohol, mark "Not Restricted."

■ Question 43: Travel

Travel outside your judicial district without USPO permission is a violation. This includes day trips that crossed district lines without prior approval. Note that judicial districts do not always match state lines — the District of Connecticut is one district; New York has four. Disclose any unauthorized travel, including travel you may have thought was authorized but was not.

■ IMPORTANT

A "YES" IS NOT THE END. We can address most violations if they are old, isolated, or have been resolved. What we cannot recover from is a "No" that the court later discovers was wrong. Tell us the truth, even if you have to pause and think hard about it. The motion is built around the truth.

Section VIII: Community Integration (Questions 44–49)

WHY WE ASK

The court needs to see that you have successfully reintegrated into the community. Volunteer work, faith-based involvement, civic participation, and educational pursuits all demonstrate that supervision has accomplished its goal — you are no longer separate from the community, but a contributing part of it.

■ Question 44: Volunteer or Community Service Work

List every organization, with dates and approximate hours. Even informal volunteer work counts — coaching youth sports, helping at a food pantry, assisting elderly neighbors, organizing neighborhood cleanups. We want a documented pattern of service. If you have certificates, hour logs, or letters from volunteer coordinators, gather them.

■ Question 45: Church, Faith, or Religious Involvement

Many courts find faith-based involvement persuasive evidence of reform — particularly when accompanied by the personal accountability that faith communities provide. Describe attendance, membership, leadership roles, mission work, mentoring. Pastors, imams, rabbis, and other faith leaders make excellent letter writers.

■ Question 46: Civic Organizations or Memberships

Veterans organizations, neighborhood associations, professional associations, recovery groups (AA, NA, SMART Recovery), parent-teacher organizations, sports leagues, business networking groups, alumni associations. Anything that shows you are connected to the law-abiding community.

■ Question 47: Education Pursued Since Release

College courses, vocational training, professional certifications, online programs, GED if you did not have one. Document dates, institutions, and outcomes. Educational achievement during supervision is one of the strongest indicators of self-direction. If you have transcripts or certificates, gather them.

■ Question 48: Family Relationships

Describe your role in your family — spouse, parent, caretaker for aging parents, breadwinner, supporter of a sibling in need. Stable family responsibilities show that supervision is not what is keeping you from re-offending; your life is. The court wants to see that you are anchored — that the things you have to lose by re-offending are now substantial.

■ Question 49: Other Community Contributions

Anything else that demonstrates positive integration — neighborhood projects, charitable giving, mentoring others with similar histories, public speaking about your experience, advocacy work, helping a neighbor through a hard time. Anything that shows you are contributing to others, not just yourself.

Section IX: Employment & Financial Stability (Questions 50–58)

WHY WE ASK

Stable employment and financial responsibility are the strongest indicators of successful reintegration. Courts know that recidivism risk drops sharply when supervisees have steady jobs, manage their finances, and meet their obligations.

■ Question 50: Current Employer

Full legal name of the company. Be specific — if it is a small business, get the exact registered name. We may need to verify employment with the employer.

■ Question 51: Position / Title

Your actual job title, not a casual description. If you have a job description or offer letter, the title on those documents is what we use.

■ Questions 52–53: Start Date and Salary / Hourly Rate

Length of tenure matters. A long tenure with a single employer suggests stability. Frequent job changes — particularly without good reason — are less favorable. Salary or hourly rate gives the court a sense of your financial position; combined with your housing situation, it shows whether you can support yourself.

■ Question 54: Supervisor Name & Phone

So we can verify employment if needed. Your direct supervisor may also be a strong letter writer — they have observed your day-to-day work.

■ Question 55: Is Your Employer Aware of Your Conviction?

If yes, this is favorable — it means your employer hired or retained you with full knowledge of your record, which is itself a vote of confidence. If no, that is also relevant: many courts find that successfully "passing" in employment means you have left your past behind, and your skills speak for themselves.

■ Question 56: Would Your Employer Write a Letter of Support?

Strongly recommended if available. An employer letter speaking to your reliability, character, and value to the workplace is highly persuasive. Letters from supervisors with direct knowledge of your day-to-day work are stronger than letters from HR. If your employer is willing but uncertain what to write, we can provide an outline.

■ Question 57: Employment History Since Release

A comprehensive list of every job since you came home, with dates and reasons for leaving. Gaps in employment must be explained — were you in school, caring for a family member, dealing with a medical issue? Multiple jobs in short periods raise questions; a long, stable position is favorable.

■ Question 58: Current on All Financial Obligations?

Tax compliance, child support, alimony, civil judgments, credit obligations — anything beyond the criminal restitution. Financial stability is a strong indicator of successful reintegration. If you are behind on any obligation, we need to know — and we may advise getting current before filing.

Section X: Residence & Living Situation (Questions 59–64)

■ Question 59: Current Address

Where you actually live now. Must match the address on file with your USPO.

■ Question 60: Type of Residence

Owning a home is the strongest indicator of stability. Long-term rental is also strong. Living with family is acceptable but raises questions about long-term plans — that is fine to address in your motion.

■ Questions 61–62: How Long at This Address; Monthly Payment

Tenure and affordability. If you have been at the same address for years and are easily managing the cost, this demonstrates settled stability. Recent moves are not disqualifying but require context.

■ Question 63: Are Housing Payments Current?

Delinquent housing payments suggest financial instability that may relate to or trigger other problems. Be honest. If you are behind because of a temporary situation (medical emergency, family crisis), explain the circumstances and the plan to catch up.

■ Question 64: Who Resides With You?

List all household members, relationships, and ages. Provides context — are you a primary caregiver for minor children? Are elderly relatives dependent on you? Are you supporting a spouse who cannot work? These details matter to the court's assessment of who you are now and what your removal from supervision would mean for those who depend on you.

Section XI: Reasons Early Termination Is Warranted (Questions 65–68)

WHY WE ASK

This is your opportunity to tell us — and ultimately the court — why you no longer need supervision. Think about what has changed, what you have accomplished, and what hardships supervision creates. We will build the legal argument; we need your story.

■ Question 65: Why Do You Believe You No Longer Need Supervised Release?

Be specific and substantive. Generic statements ("I learned my lesson," "I am a different person now") do not move courts. Concrete demonstrations of change, sustained over time, do. Address the original reasons supervision was imposed and explain how those concerns no longer apply.

EXAMPLE

A weak answer: "I have been good and don't need supervision anymore."

A strong answer: "When I was sentenced in 2019, my drug dependency was central to the offense. I completed RDAP in custody and have been continuously sober for 4 years. I have completed all court-ordered drug treatment, attended NA meetings weekly for 36 months, and tested clean every time during supervision. I am now a peer mentor at my treatment center, helping others through early recovery. The supervision originally imposed to monitor my sobriety has accomplished its purpose — and continues only as a formality."

■ Question 66: Hardships from Continued Supervision

Concrete is better than abstract. The strongest motions identify specific, identifiable hardships — not just inconvenience but actual obstacles to legitimate goals. "It is annoying to ask permission" is not a hardship. "I have been offered a regional sales manager position requiring weekly travel to four states; I cannot accept while I require advance permission for each interstate trip" is.

■ Question 67: Would Early Termination Help With...?

Check all that apply, and be specific about how. For each that applies, explain the concrete circumstance:

- Employment advancement — a specific promotion is unavailable because of supervision restrictions, or industry licensing requires no current supervision.
- Educational pursuits — a program requires international travel, residency, or licensing that supervision prohibits.
- Professional licensing — state boards (legal, medical, real estate, financial, others) often will not issue or renew licenses to persons currently on supervised release.
- Travel for work or family — unauthorized travel restrictions interfere with work obligations or family events (weddings, funerals, medical emergencies).

- Housing opportunities — some landlords or housing programs decline applicants currently on supervision.
- Medical treatment access — specialized treatment may require travel, residency, or insurance situations that supervision complicates.
- Mental health improvement — the ongoing stress and stigma of supervision itself, in some cases, materially affects mental health.
- Financial improvement — supervision may interfere with self-employment, certain investments, or financial relationships.
- Immigration status — for non-citizens, currently being on supervision can affect adjustment of status, naturalization, or removal proceedings.

✓ **PRACTICE TIP**

NAME THE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITY. Generic "I want to advance my career" rarely works. "My employer offered me a regional manager position requiring travel to four states; I cannot accept while I require travel permission for each trip" works. The more specific and verifiable, the better.

■ **Question 68: Medical or Mental Health Conditions**

If you have medical or mental health conditions, describe them and explain how termination of supervision affects your treatment. Examples: a treatment requires intensive travel; a condition makes regular USPO reporting physically difficult; ongoing supervision contributes to anxiety or depression that medication has not fully addressed. If your treatment provider can write a letter linking termination to your treatment, that is particularly persuasive.

Section XII: § 3553(a) Sentencing Factors (Questions 69–72)

WHY WE ASK

The court must consider these sentencing factors when deciding your motion. Your answers help us argue that each factor — once weighed in favor of imprisonment and supervision — now weighs in favor of termination based on your post-sentencing conduct.

■ Question 69: Describe the Offense in Your Own Words

Take responsibility. Be specific. Acknowledge what you did and the harm caused. Do not minimize, do not blame others, do not relitigate guilt. Courts respond well to candor and self-awareness — and respond very poorly to defendants who, years later, still cannot honestly describe what they did.

■ Question 70: Factors That Contributed to Your Criminal Conduct

Substance abuse. Mental health. Financial pressure. Bad influences. Lack of opportunity. Trauma. Be honest about what drove your conduct, then explain how you have addressed each factor. Courts understand that human beings act under pressure — they want to see that you understand what your pressures were and that you have built defenses against them.

■ Question 71: Why You Would NOT Pose a Danger Without Supervision

This is the public safety question — the most important one. Why is supervision no longer needed to protect the community from you? Address what has changed. Concrete answers: stable employment, family responsibilities, sustained sobriety, distance from prior criminal associates, accountability structures (faith, recovery community, family) that are now your supports. The court must conclude that the structures keeping you law-abiding are now in your life, not just in the supervision.

■ Question 72: How Has This Experience Affected Your Respect for the Law?

Your insights matter here. Courts want to hear that you have internalized the consequences of your conduct — not just for yourself, but for victims, family, and community. They want to hear genuine reflection, not strategic talking points. Speak honestly about what you have come to understand.

Section XIII: Letters of Support (Question 73)

■ IMPORTANT

Letters of support are among the most persuasive evidence in your motion. Letters from your employer, family, clergy, USPO, and community leaders each address different § 3553(a) factors. Each letter should be addressed to "The Honorable [Judge Name]," dated within 60 days of filing, and should include the writer's relationship to you, length of acquaintance, specific observations of your character and conduct, and a clear request that the court grant termination.

■ Question 73: Persons Who Will Provide Letters

List name, relationship, whether they will provide a letter, and how to contact them. Aim for 4–8 letters from a diverse group:

- Employer or supervisor — speaks to work history, reliability, character
- Family member — speaks to family role and stability
- Pastor or faith leader — speaks to character and community involvement
- USPO — if willing (most powerful letter you can get)
- Civic or community organization leader — speaks to community contribution
- Former mentor, teacher, or coach — speaks to long-term character
- Treatment provider — speaks to addressing the underlying issues
- Long-term friend — speaks to consistency over time

✓ PRACTICE TIP

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY. Eight specific, substantive letters from people who know you well are more persuasive than twenty boilerplate letters. We provide each writer with a brief outline showing what to address; this prevents generic letters and ensures coverage of the § 3553(a) factors. Each letter should add a different piece of information — not repeat the others.

Section XIV: Supporting Documents Checklist (Question 74)

■ Question 74: Check All You Can Provide

For each item, indicate whether you can provide it. We use everything you can supply:

- Judgment & Commitment Order — essential, sets the framework
- Employment records / pay stubs — verifies employment and income
- Employer letter of support — speaks to reliability and character
- Proof of residence — lease, mortgage statement, utility bills
- Tax returns — verifies financial compliance
- Restitution payment records — shows compliance with financial obligations
- Program completion certificates — verifies treatment, education, vocational
- Educational transcripts — verifies educational pursuits
- Letters of support — directly addresses character
- Volunteer / community service records — verifies civic engagement
- Medical records (if relevant) — supports medical-need arguments
- USPO contact information — used in motion and exhibits

If a document does not exist, we do not pretend it does. We work with what you have and explain any gaps in the motion.

Section XV: Additional Information (Question 75)

■ Question 75: Anything Else the Court Should Consider?

This is your space for what does not fit elsewhere. Use it. Share unique facts about your case, recent achievements, pending opportunities, family circumstances, plans for after termination — anything that helps the court see the whole person, not just the docket entry.

Some examples of what to include here:

- A recent honor or recognition (community award, employer recognition, professional achievement)
- A specific upcoming opportunity (a job, an educational program, a family milestone) that requires termination
- A relevant family circumstance (a child reaching a milestone, a parent's illness, a marriage)
- A unique aspect of your case the court should know (cooperation that was sealed, mitigating facts about the offense, post-sentencing developments in the law of your case)
- Long-term plans that demonstrate forward-looking purpose (continued education, business plans, family goals)

This is also the place to disclose anything we have not yet asked about that you think we need to know. Better to share too much information than too little.

PART THREE

After You Complete the Questionnaire

What Happens Next?

16. **We Review Your Questionnaire.** After receiving your completed questionnaire, we review it thoroughly. This typically takes 3-5 business days.
17. **We Assess Your Case.** Based on your responses and documentation, we evaluate the likelihood of success, identify the strongest arguments, and flag any weaknesses we will need to address.
18. **We Research Your Judge.** Every federal judge has a track record on early termination motions. We research your judge's grant rate, preferred argument style, and any recent rulings to tailor your motion accordingly.
19. **We May Request Additional Information.** If we need clarifications, additional documents, or additional letters, we will contact you or your designated emergency contact.
20. **We Draft Your Motion.** We prepare a comprehensive Motion for Early Termination of Supervised Release tailored to your specific circumstances, your judge's preferences, and the § 3553(a) factors as they apply to you. The motion includes a memorandum of law, a sworn declaration where appropriate, and supporting exhibits.
21. **You Review and Approve.** Before filing, you will have the opportunity to review the motion and verify its accuracy. We do not file without your approval.
22. **Filing and Response.** After filing, the government typically has 14-21 days to respond. The court will also typically request a position from the U.S. Probation Office. We may file a reply addressing the government's opposition.
23. **Court Decision.** The court will issue a ruling. This may take weeks to several months depending on the court's docket. Many courts decide on the papers without a hearing; some hold telephonic or in-person hearings.

Tips for Gathering Documents

- Start now. Do not wait to request documents. Tax returns, employment letters, treatment certificates, and USPO records all take time to gather.
- Use your support system. Family members can request records, gather letters, and follow up on your behalf.
- Order your USPO file. Some districts allow you to inspect or obtain a copy of your USPO file. This can confirm the absence of negative entries — and can be referenced in your motion.
- Get your J&C if you do not have it. Available from PACER (www.pacer.uscourts.gov) or the Clerk of Court for your sentencing district. Family members can access PACER on your behalf for a small per-page fee.
- Request employer letters early. Letter writers need time and guidance. We provide outlines that help them address the issues that matter to the court.
- Gather treatment certificates. If you completed any court-ordered or voluntary programs, get the certificates of completion. If you have lost copies, contact the program.
- Keep copies of everything. Originals stay in our file; you keep copies for your records.

How to Write Compelling Narrative Answers

For questions asking you to describe or explain in your own words, follow these guidelines:

- Be specific. "I am doing well" is not useful. "I have been at the same job for 36 months, just received a promotion to lead technician, am current on all financial obligations, and serve as a youth basketball coach in my church" is useful.
- Use dates. Anchor your story in time. When did the change happen? How long have you held this job? When did you complete this program?
- Show, don't tell. Don't say you have changed; describe the actions that prove it. Don't say you are responsible; describe the responsibilities you carry.
- Be honest about the negatives. Address them directly. "I had one missed appointment in March 2022 due to my mother's hospitalization; I notified my USPO the same day and made up the appointment within a week."
- Connect to the legal standard. Why does each fact you describe support the § 3583(e)(1) standard — that termination is warranted by your conduct and the interest of justice?
- Avoid legal language. Tell your story in your own words. We will translate it into the language of the motion.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I file before completing one year of supervision?

No. § 3583(e)(1) is jurisdictional — the court has no authority to terminate before one year. After the one-year mark, however, your eligibility is governed by your conduct and the interest of justice — not by any percentage of time served. Recent federal appellate authority (*United States v. Collins*, 6th Cir. 2026) confirms that courts cannot use blanket percentage rules to deny motions. If you have a year or more of clean supervision and concrete reasons termination would help you, you may be a strong candidate to file now.

Q: What are my chances?

Every case is different. Federal Probation Office data shows approximately 30% of motions for early termination are granted nationally, but the rate varies dramatically by district, judge, and circumstances. We give you a candid assessment after reviewing your questionnaire.

Q: Can I file again if I am denied?

Yes. Denials are usually "without prejudice" — meaning you can refile when circumstances have materially changed (more time served, new accomplishments, USPO position changed). We help you identify what would need to change before refileing.

Q: Do I have to discuss this with my USPO first?

Not legally required, but usually advisable. A USPO endorsement (or even neutrality) is the single most influential factor in the court's decision. We may advise specific timing and approach for that conversation.

Q: Will the government oppose?

Sometimes. Some U.S. Attorney's Offices oppose every motion as a matter of policy; others defer to the USPO; others take case-specific positions. We expect opposition and prepare for it. A strong USPO recommendation often outweighs government opposition.

Q: Will I have a hearing?

Often not. Many courts decide early termination motions on the written submissions alone. Some hold brief telephonic hearings. If a hearing is scheduled, we prepare you in advance.

Q: If granted, what happens to my conditions?

All conditions of supervision end immediately upon entry of the order. You are discharged from supervised release. You retain your conviction (early termination does not vacate the conviction) but you are no longer under federal supervision.

Q: Does early termination expunge my record?

No. Early termination ends supervision but does not affect the underlying conviction or the criminal record. For record expungement or sealing, separate state-level remedies may be available depending on your state.

Q: What if my USPO opposes early termination?

USPO opposition is a significant obstacle but not always fatal. We can file when there are specific, documented reasons that override the USPO's concerns — for example, a clear employment hardship, a

documented medical need, or a verifiable opportunity that requires termination. We address USPO concerns directly in the motion rather than ignoring them.

Q: How long does the entire process take?

From completing the questionnaire to a court decision typically takes 2–4 months, sometimes longer. Courts vary widely in how quickly they rule. The government's response window is 14–21 days; the court's decision can take anywhere from a few days to several months after the briefing is complete.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Early termination of supervised release is achievable. Every day, courts across the country grant early termination to individuals who have demonstrated through their conduct on supervision that they no longer require monitoring.

Your job is to complete this questionnaire thoroughly and honestly. Our job is to take the information you provide and craft the strongest possible argument for termination — tailored to your judge, your district, and the § 3553(a) factors as they apply to your specific circumstances.

If you have questions while completing the questionnaire, contact us. We will work with you and your support system to ensure every relevant fact is captured.

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