

INVENTION RECORD

I. INTRODUCTION

In the United States, a patent is awarded to the first to invent, not the first to file a patent application. However, if you are the second to file, it will be very hard to obtain a patent, even if you are the first inventor. This form can be used as a first recordation of those facts, and it is a very good start to use with a patent lawyer.

Do not rely on a “poor man’s patent.” Mailing this form to yourself without witnessing because you are afraid of disclosure is a bad idea. Even filling out this form with witness, is no substitute for a professionally drafted application, including claims, filed with the Patent and Trademark Office. That application can be filed as a provisional application, which delays the cost of filing an application that will be examined, and it delays the start of examination.

Some believe that filing anything as a provisional application that discloses the invention in detail (such as this document) is better than nothing. But there are risks in filing a provisional application that has not been professional drafted. (see: [Provisional Patent Applications, www.uspatclaw.com](http://www.uspatclaw.com)).

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Long Felt Need: One of the tests for validity of a patent is whether the invention satisfies a long felt but unsolved need. Please describe the problem(s) the invention solves or addresses. In other words, what is the problem people have that they need to have solved. Please list any patents or other publications you know about that address the same problem, even if they do so in a way that is different from the new invention:

Surprising Results: Sometimes, the results a line of normal engineering or design achieve are surprising, which is another indication of patentability. Please describe any unexpected outcome to the work that lead to the invention:

Detailed Example: The scope of the patent will not be determined by how much detail is included in a description of an example of the invention. However it is important to give as much detail as possible. That helps the professional draft an application, and it may be necessary for the patent to be valid. The law requires that the disclosure be detailed enough to allow a person of ordinary skill in the technology of the invention to make use of it. That does not require a production specification, but the patent disclosure is required to allow such a person to do that without “undue” experimentation. It is best to err on the side of too much, rather than too little:

Best Mode: In the US, unlike most other countries, the inventor not only has to teach a person of ordinary skill how to make and use the invention, the inventor must also disclose the “best mode of carrying out the invention.” That does not mean that the inventor has to do more experiments than what it took to describe an example, but it does mean that the inventor should disclose what the inventor knows affects the operation or effectiveness of the invention. For example, are there any special materials, ways of making, temperatures, atmospheric conditions, or any other “secrets” that are known to make a difference? Please list them here:

Definition(s) of the Invention: A patent is limited by the part of the document called the “claims.” They are a definition of the invention in broad terms that serve to distinguish the invention from earlier technology. This is the part of an application on which professional drafters spend the most of their time, but it requires good input from the inventors. Please give your best definition of what process the invention performs that was not done before, and also give a broad definition of what it is, structurally, that makes the invention new.

Co-Inventors: Please list the names, citizenship, residence address, and contact information of each person who contributed to the invention, and describe their role:

III. INVENTOR SIGNATURES

Each inventor should read and sign the form, signifying that the above information is true and correct to the best of their personal knowledge (print, sign in ink, and keep the original):

(Date) (Place) (Signature of First Inventor)

(Printed Name of First Inventor)

(Date) (Place) (Signature of Second Inventor)

(Printed Name of Second Inventor)