

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEIZURE OF
THE M/T SKIPPER WITH INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME ORGANIZATION NUMBER
9304667

No. 25-sz-50 (ZMF)

ORDER

On November 26, 2025, the Court authorized the government's application to seize the MT Skipper in international waters pursuant to established legal authority.

On December 10, 2025, U.S. authorities executed the seizure warrant in international waters.¹

“Transparency requires courts to timely unseal—with redactions if needed—every judicial decision, including [seizure] warrants.” *In re Search of One Device & Two Individuals under Rule 41*, 784 F. Supp. 3d 234, 255 (D.D.C. 2025). Given that the subject of the warrant is no longer secret, the government now moves to partially unseal its seizure warrant application, search warrant, and its affidavit in support. Because the government has separately provided reasons for sealing to still apply as to the details of its investigation, the Court permitted the government to submit redacted copies of its documents.

¹ It is commendable that the U.S. Attorney's office sought court approval before taking action in international waters. This is what the rule of law requires.

It is hereby ORDERED that the instant case is partially unsealed. The attached documents and this order shall be published on the docket and the court's website. The docket and all other documents therein are to remain under seal temporarily. The government shall file a motion to unseal the full docket as soon as practicable.

Date: December 12, 2025



ZIA M. FARUQUI
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Columbia

In the Matter of the Seizure of)
(Briefly describe the property to be seized))
THE M/T SKIPPER WITH INTERNATIONAL) Case No. 25-sz-50
MARITIME ORGANIZATION NUMBER 9304667)
)

**APPLICATION FOR A WARRANT TO SEIZE
PROPERTY SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE**

I, a federal law enforcement officer or attorney for the government, request a seizure warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that the following property in the Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia is subject to forfeiture to the United States of America under _____ U.S.C. § 18 U.S.C. § 2339B(a)(1), 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(G)(i), 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5),
18 U.S.C. § 981(b)

(describe the property): the M/T SKIPPER (International Maritime Organization ("IMO") No. 9304667

The application is based on these facts:

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT WHICH IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

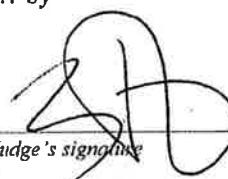
Continued on the attached sheet.

[REDACTED]
Applicants' signatures

[REDACTED] Special Agent and [REDACTED] Special Agent
Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone.

Date: 11/26/2026


Judge's signature

City and state: Washington, D.C.

Zia M. Faruqui, United States Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Columbia

In the Matter of the Seizure of
(Briefly describe the property to be seized)
THE M/T SKIPPER WITH INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME ORGANIZATION NUMBER 9304667
Case No. 25-sz-50

WARRANT TO SEIZE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests that certain property located in the Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia be seized as being subject to forfeiture to the United States of America. The property is described as follows:

the M/T SKIPPER (International Maritime Organization ("IMO") No. 9304667

I find that the affidavit(s) and any recorded testimony establish probable cause to seize the property.

YOU ARE COMMANDED to execute this warrant and seize the property on or before 12/10/2025

(not to exceed 14 days)

in the daytime 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at any time in the day or night because good cause has been established.

Unless delayed notice is authorized below, you must also give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property taken to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the property was taken.

An officer present during the execution of the warrant must prepare, as required by law, an inventory of any property seized and the officer executing the warrant must promptly return this warrant and a copy of the inventory to

Zia M. Faruqui

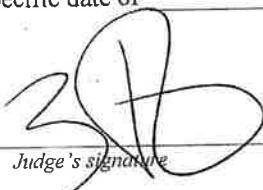
(United States Magistrate Judge)

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3103a(b), I find that immediate notification may have an adverse result listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2705 (except for delay of trial), and authorize the officer executing this warrant to delay notice to the person who, or whose property, will be searched or seized *(check the appropriate box)*

for _____ days (not to exceed 30)

until, the facts justifying, the later specific date of _____

Date and time issued: 11/26/2025 10:50 a.m.


Judge's signature

City and state: Washington, D.C.

Zia M. Faruqui, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

Return		
Case No.:	Date and time warrant executed:	Copy of warrant and inventory left with:
25-sz-50		
Inventory made in the presence of:		
Inventory of the property taken:		
Certification		
I declare under penalty of perjury that this inventory is correct and was returned along with the original warrant to the designated judge.		
Date:	<hr/> <i>Executing officer's signature</i>	
<hr/> <i>Printed name and title</i>		

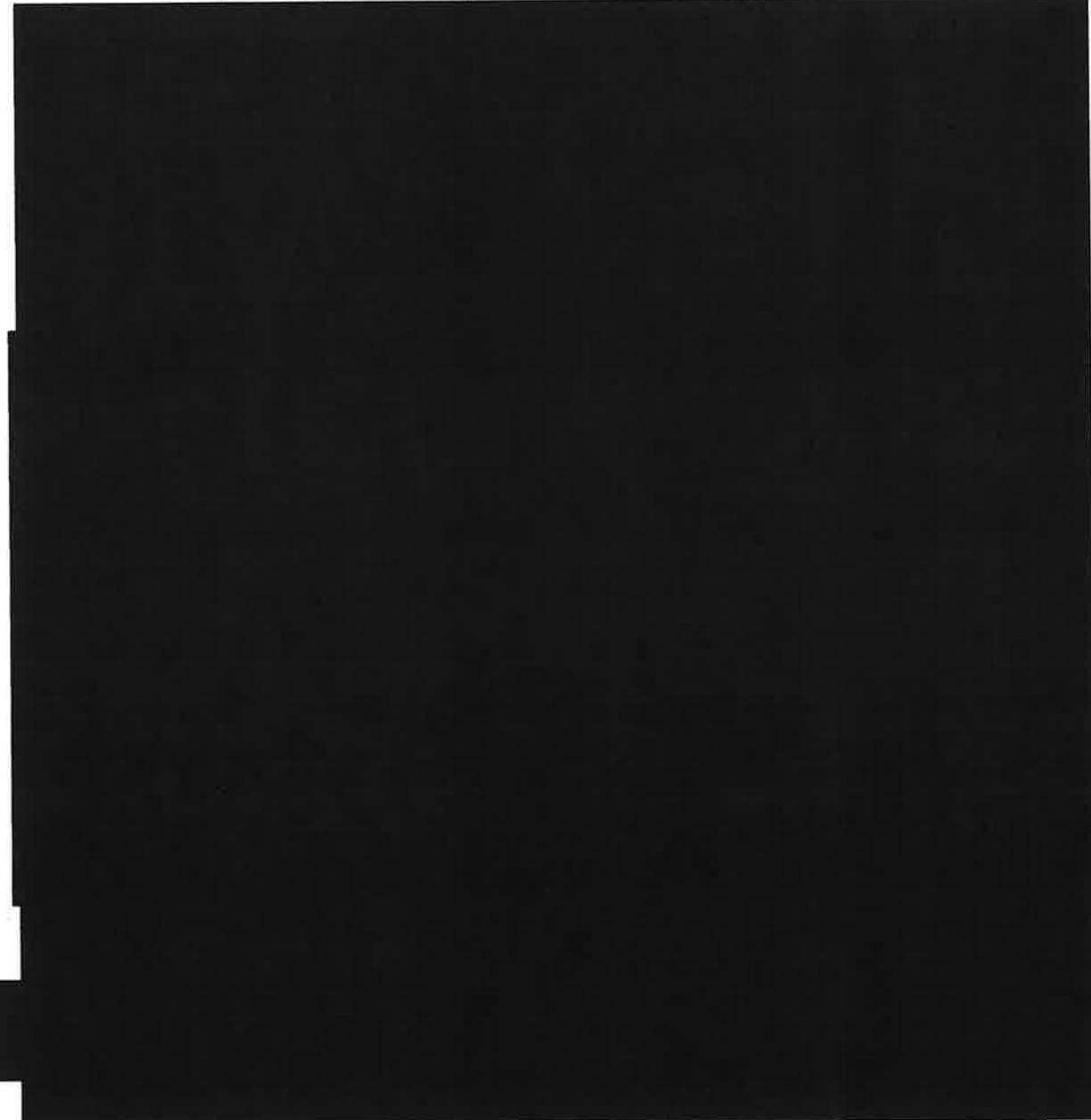
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

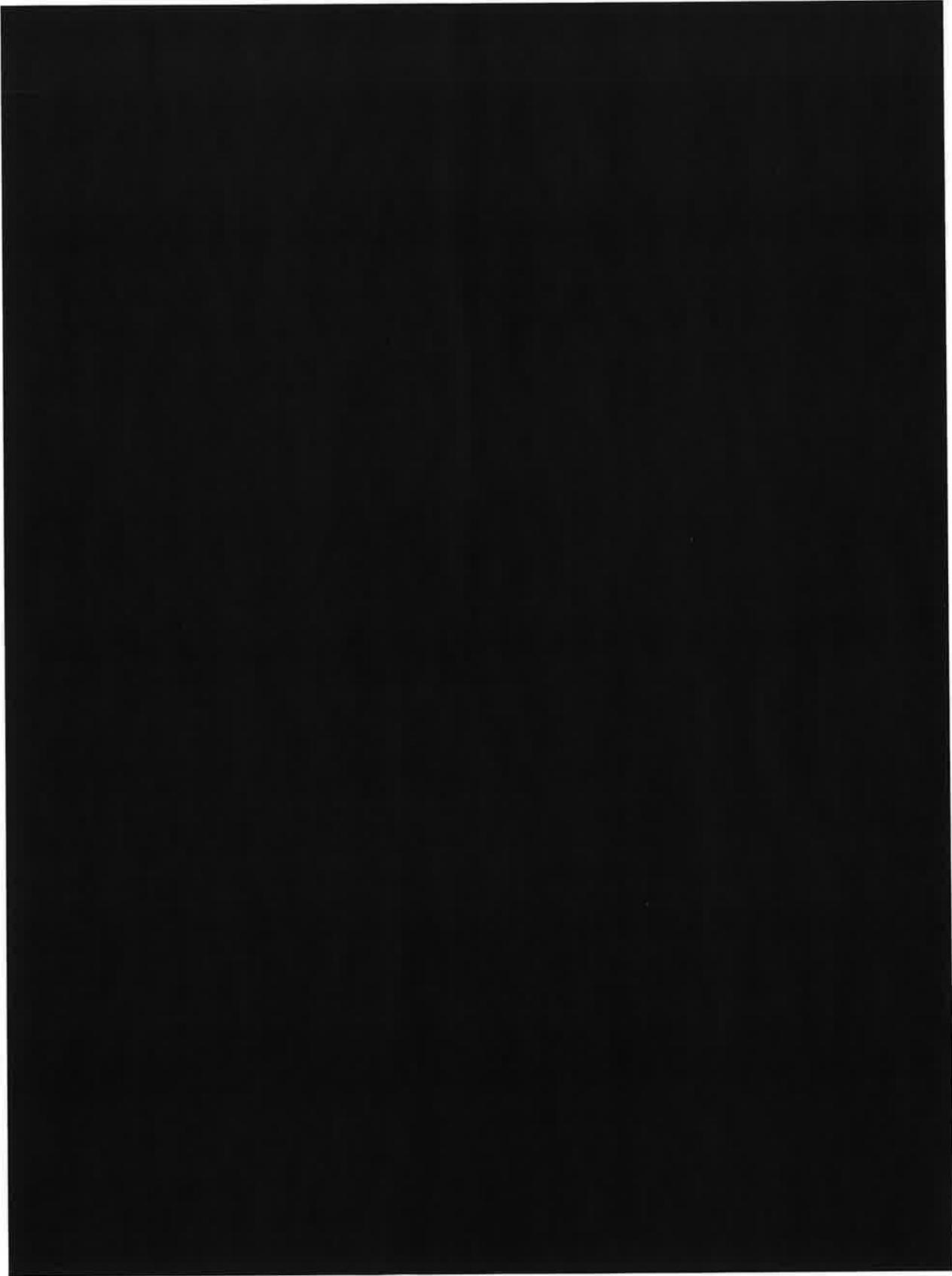
IN THE MATTER OF THE SEIZURE OF
THE M/T SKIPPER WITH
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
ORGANIZATION NUMBER 9304667

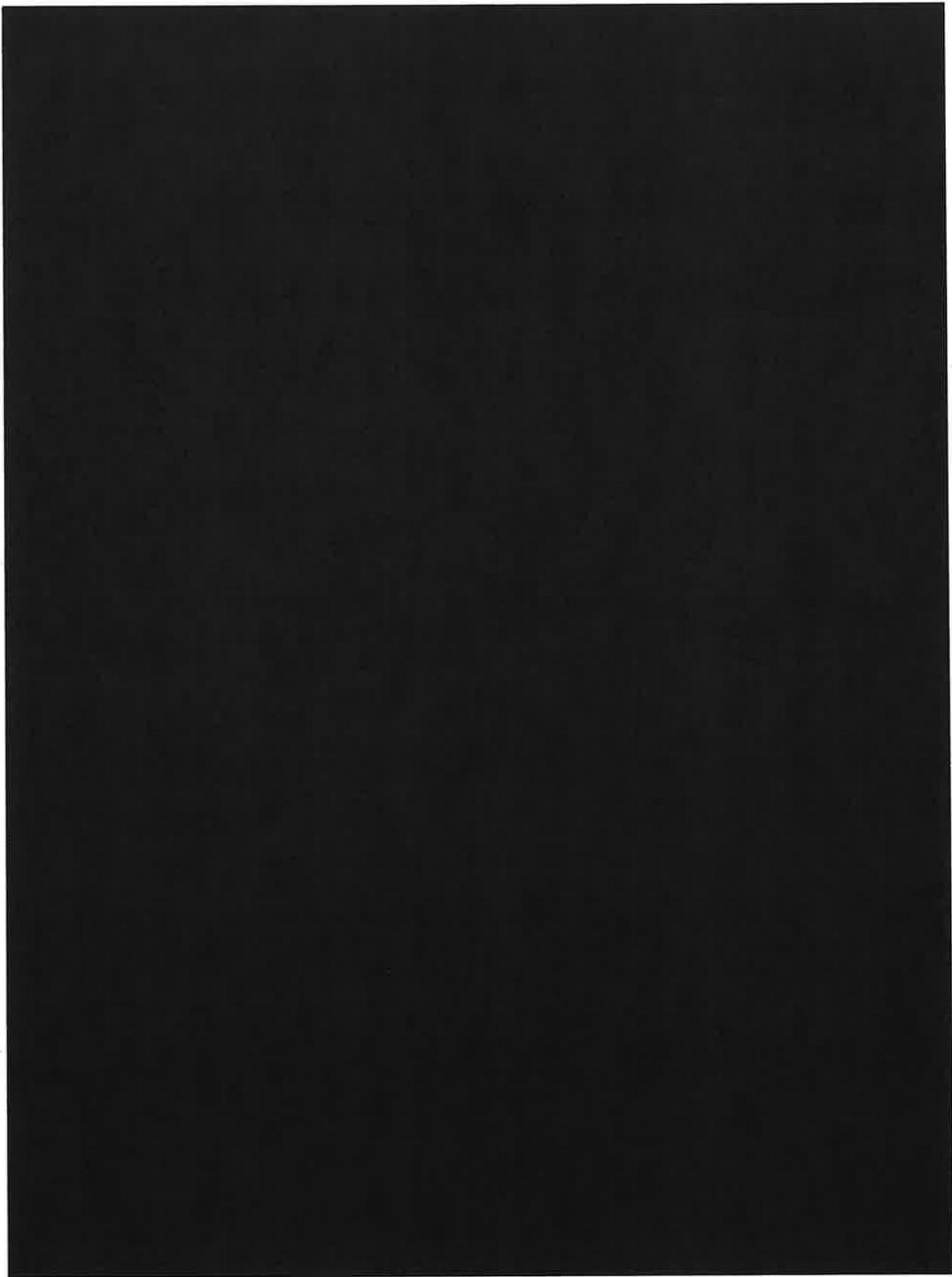
Case No. 25-sz-50

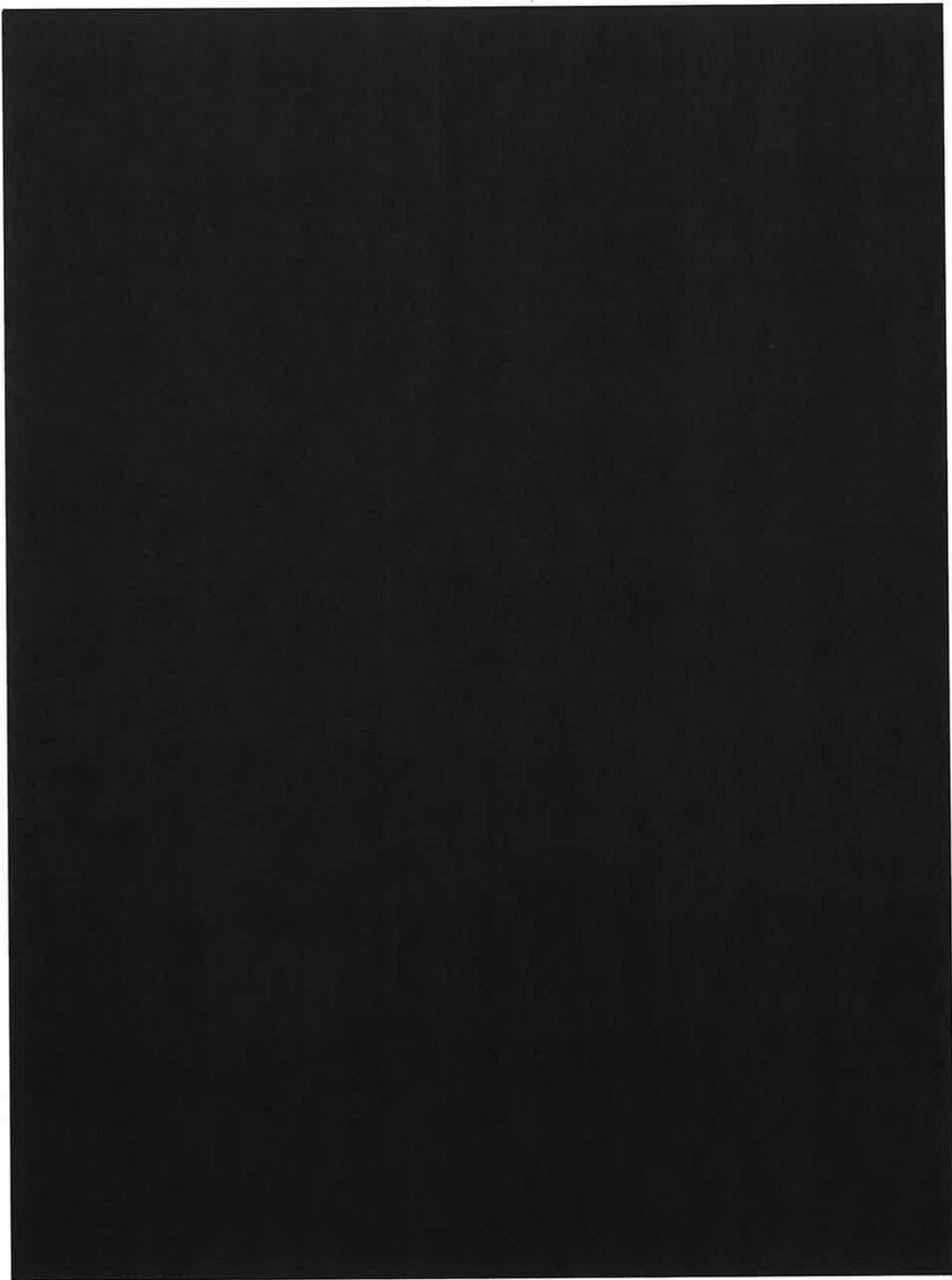
FILED UNDER SEAL

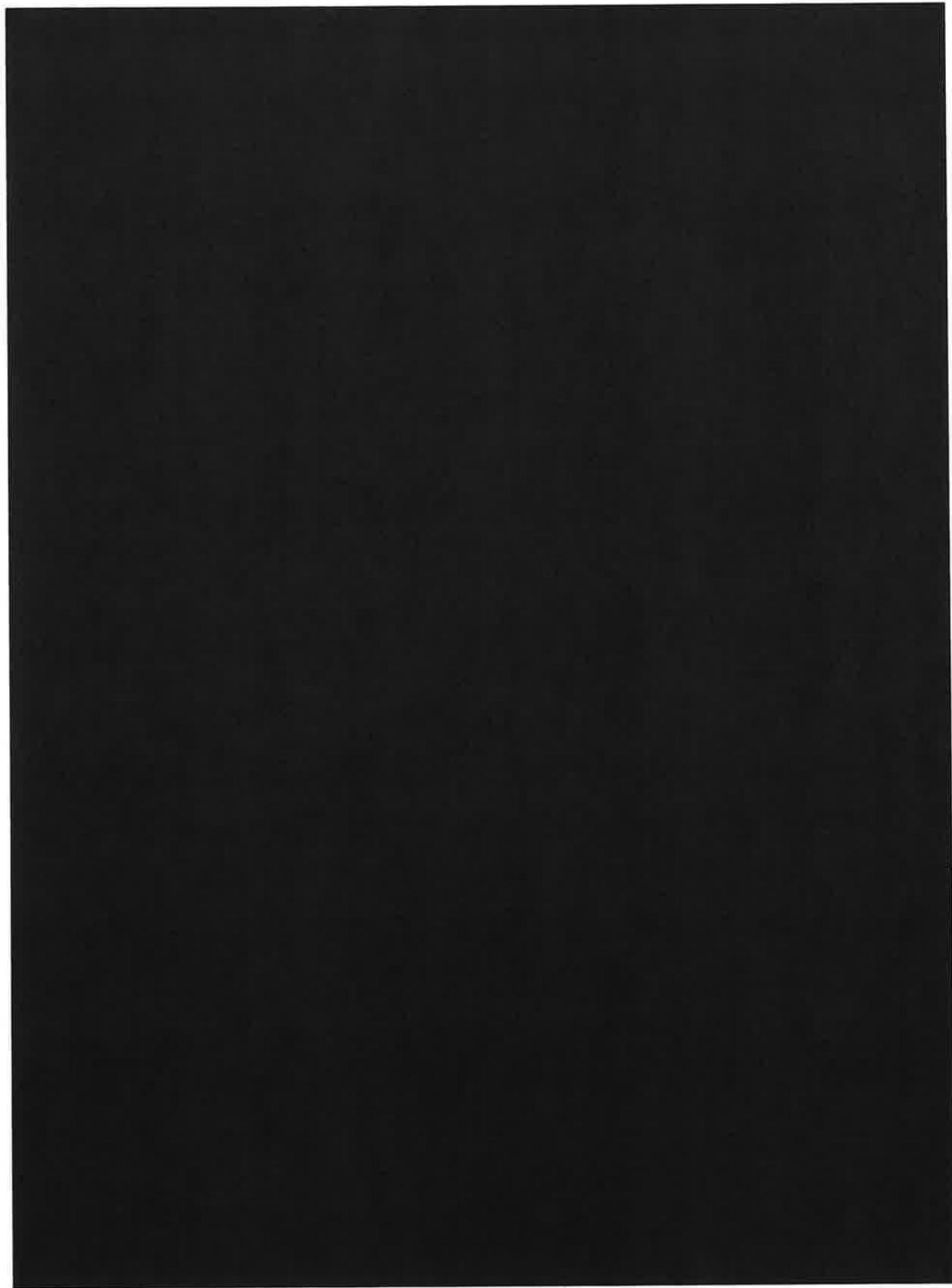
AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF SEIZURE WARRANT





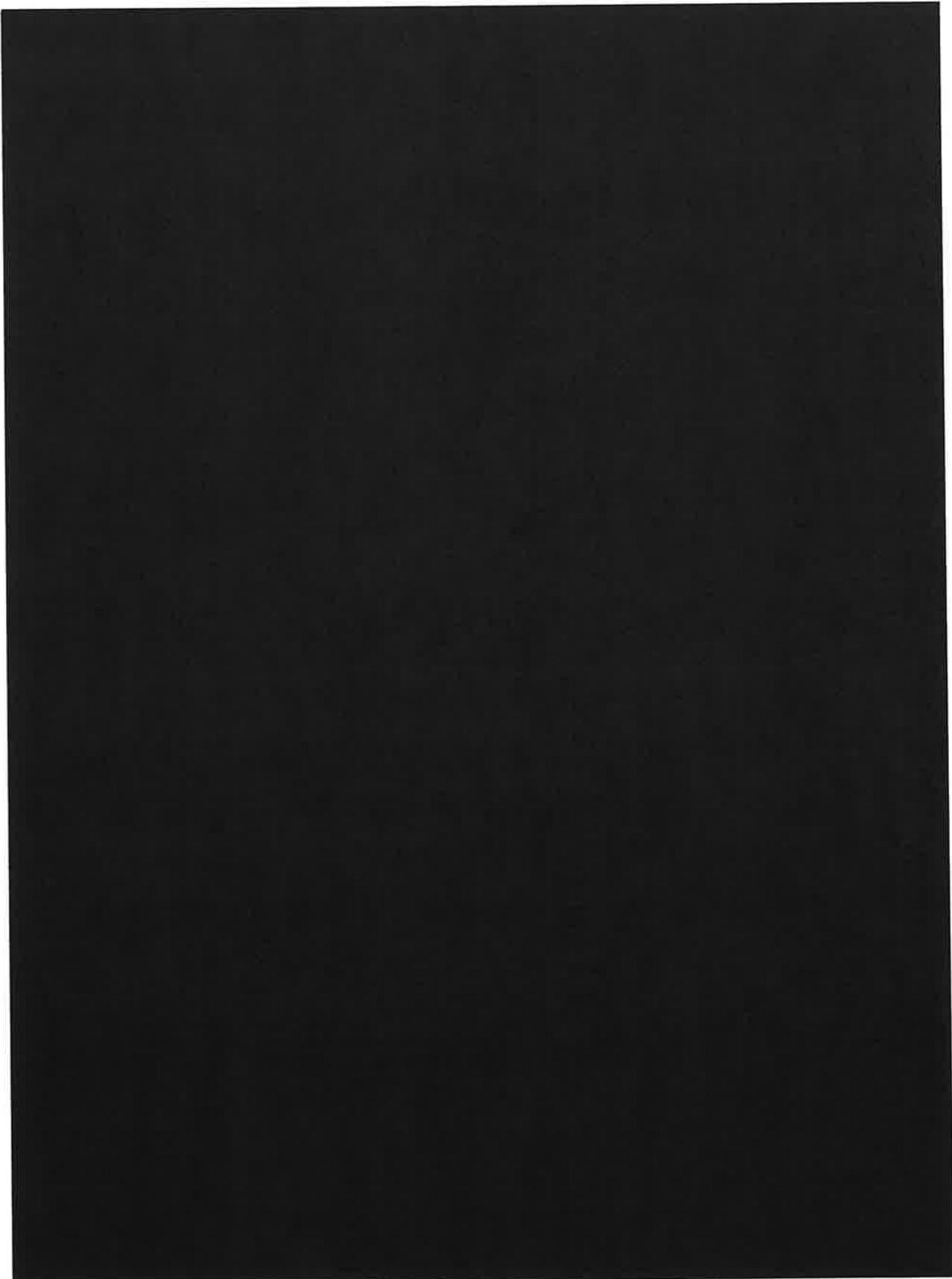


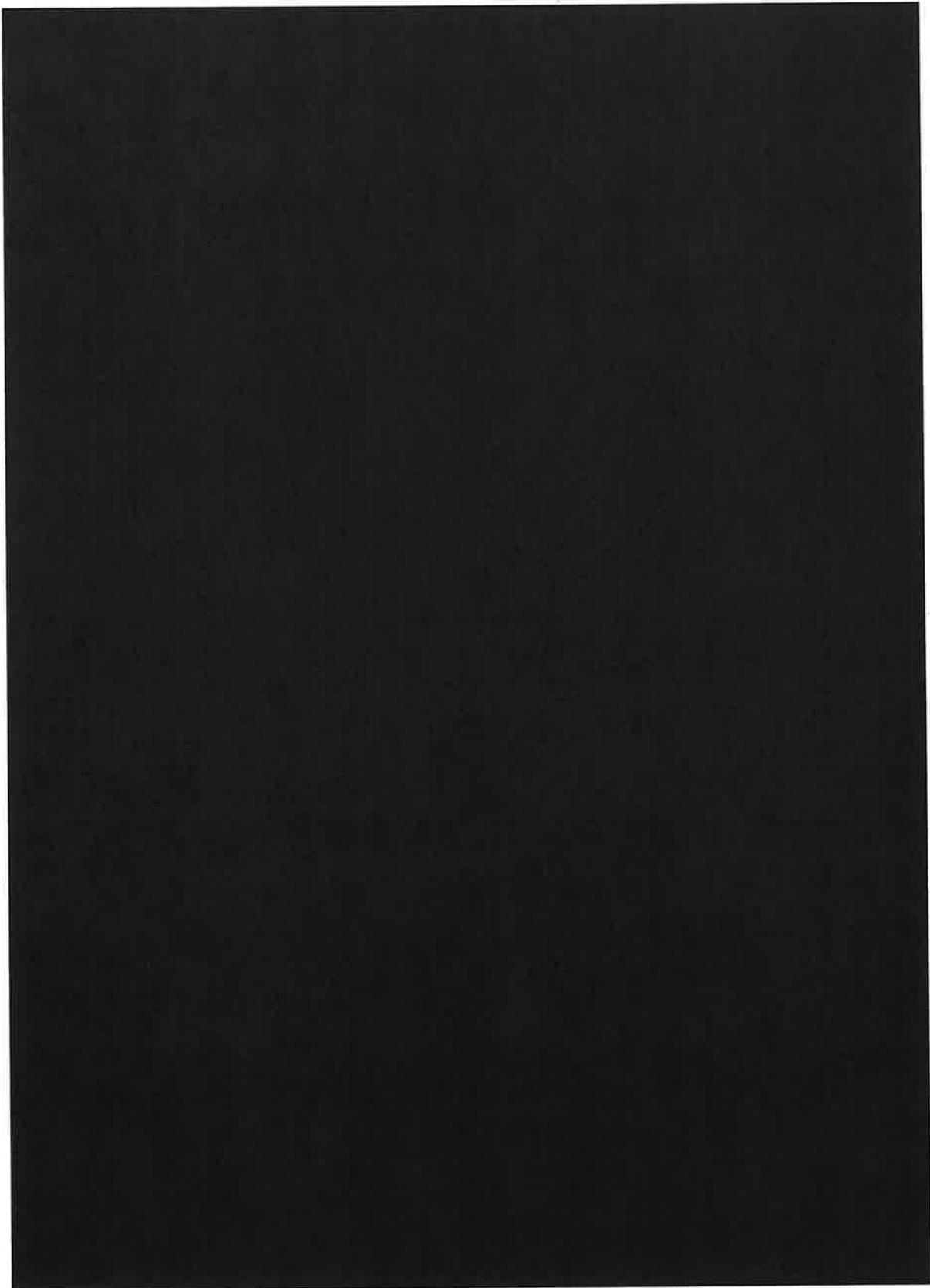


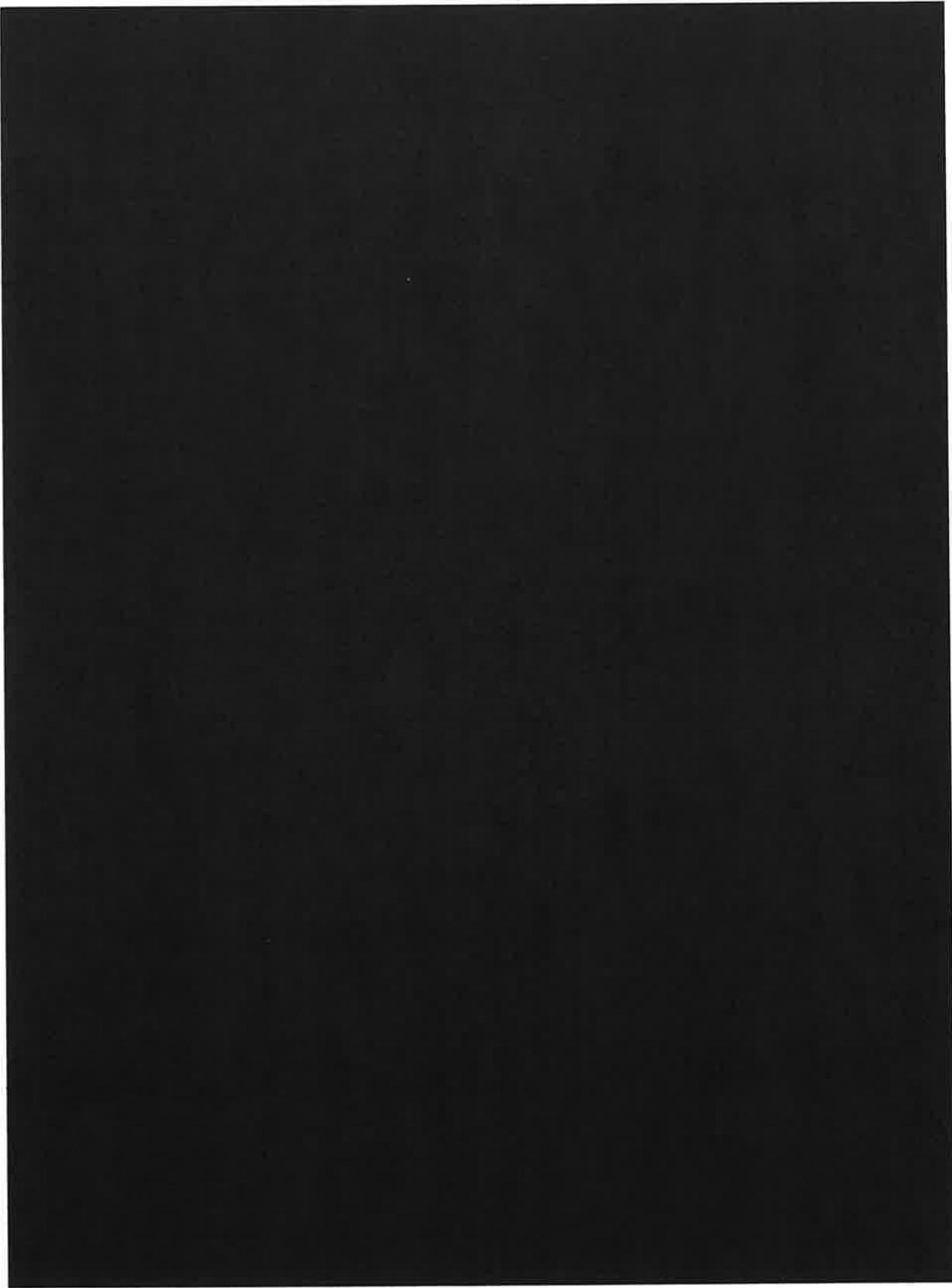


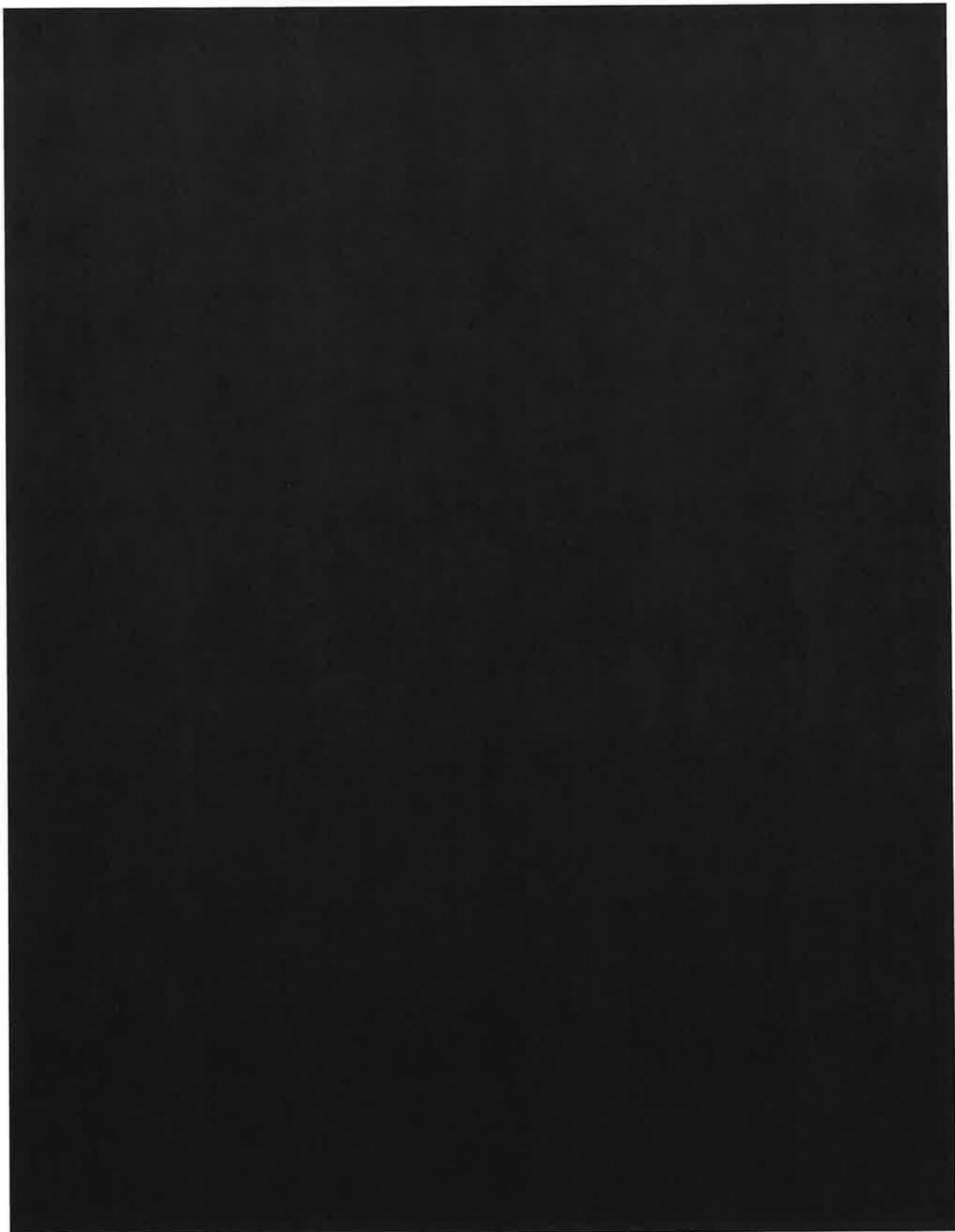




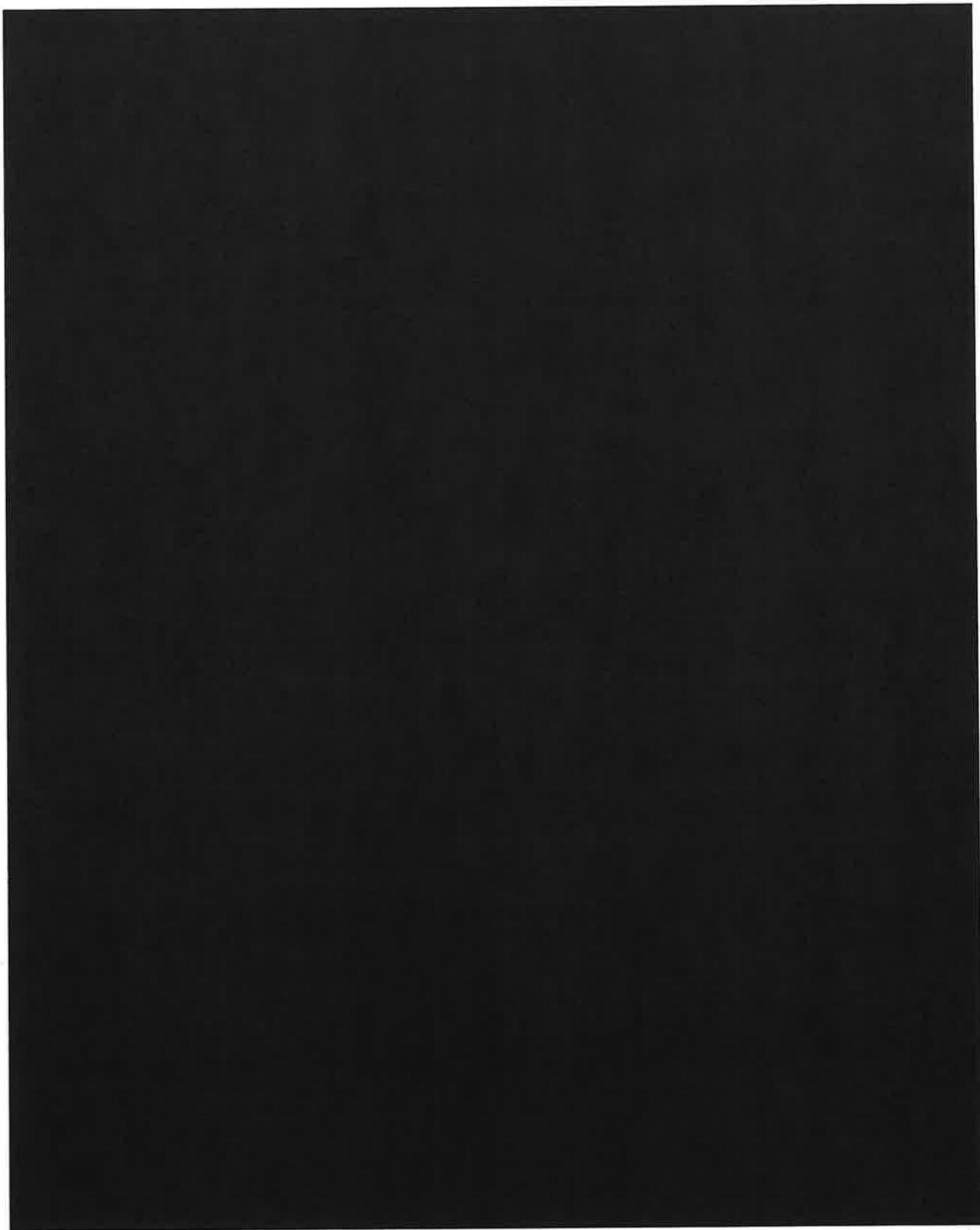






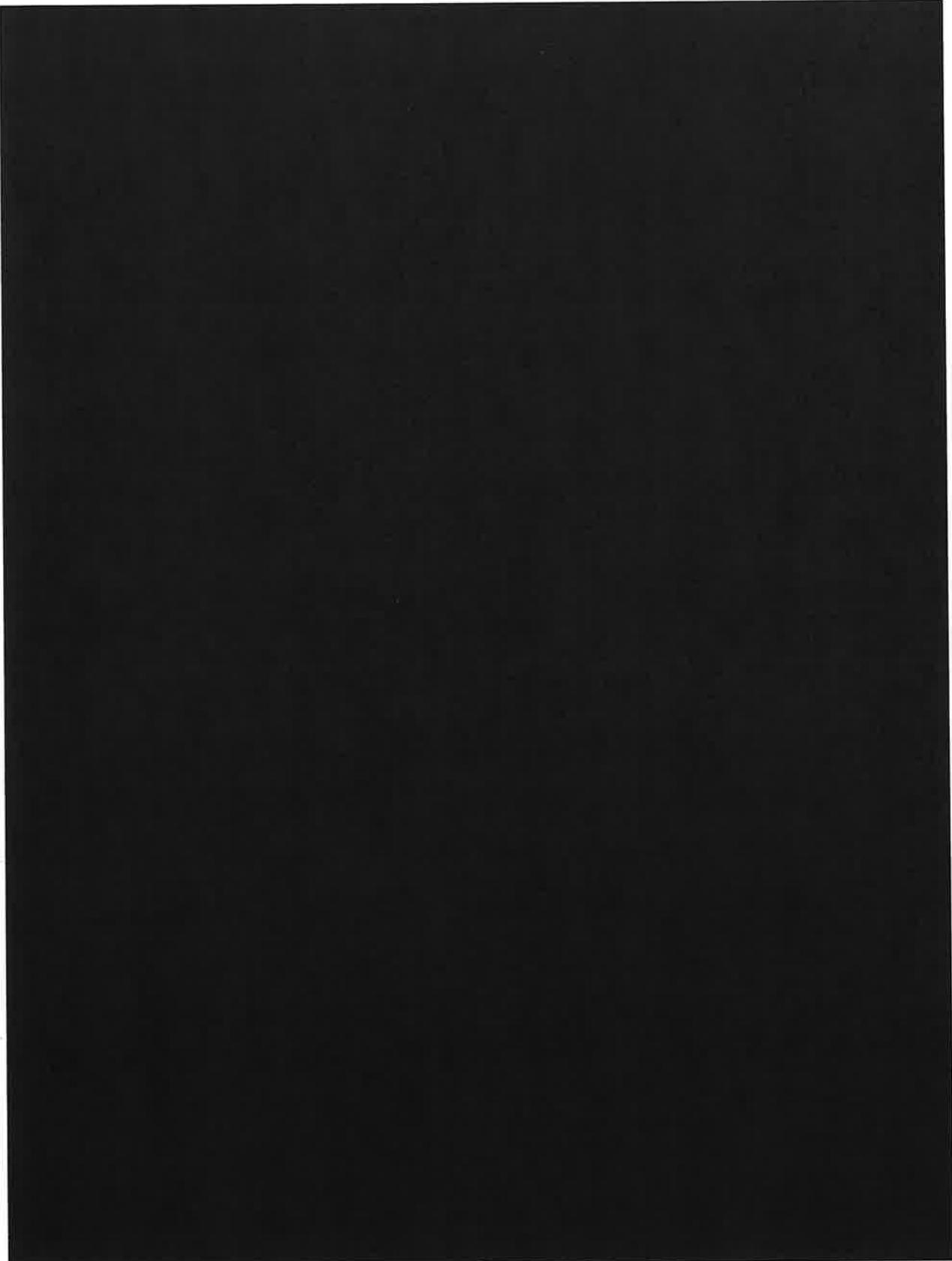


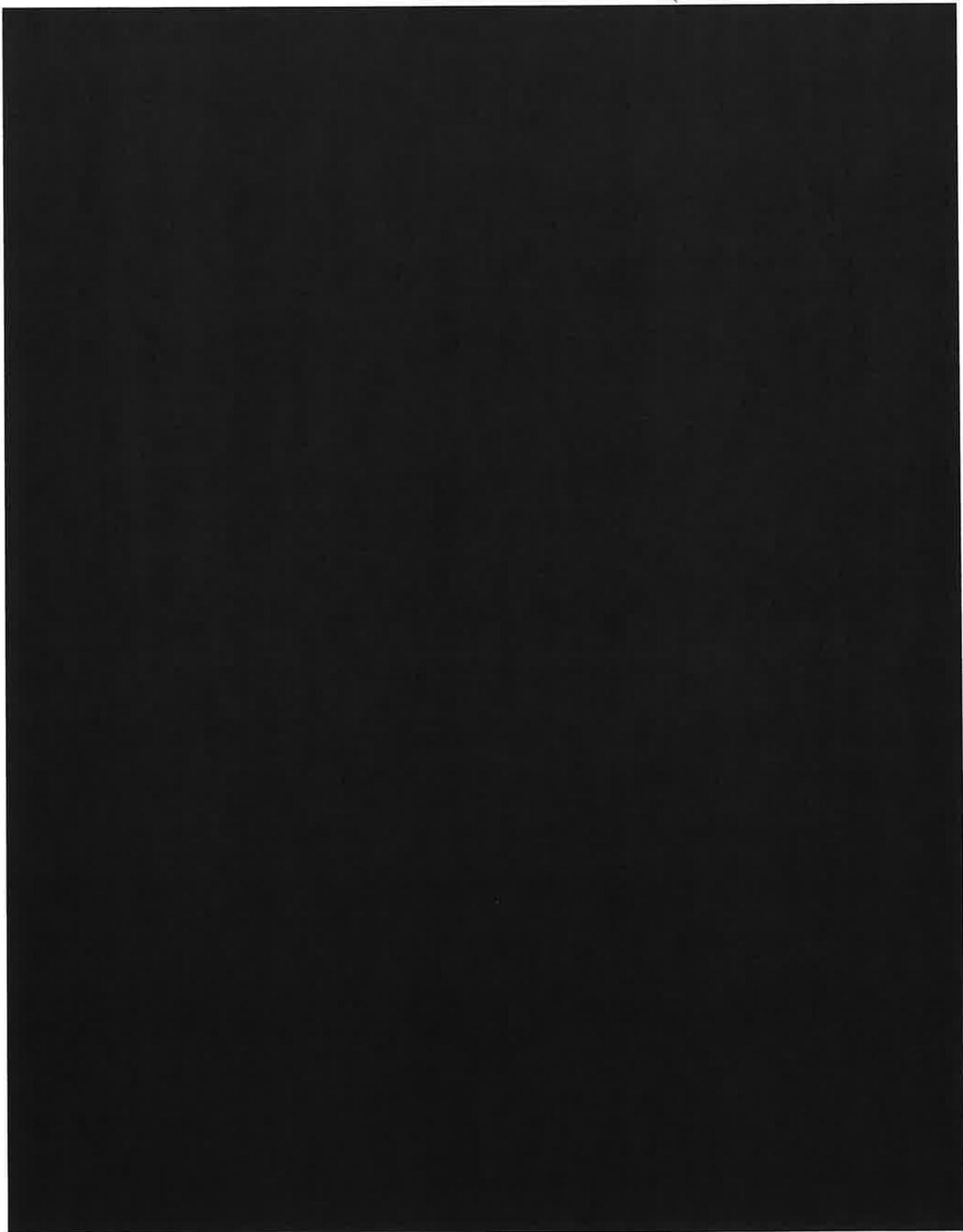


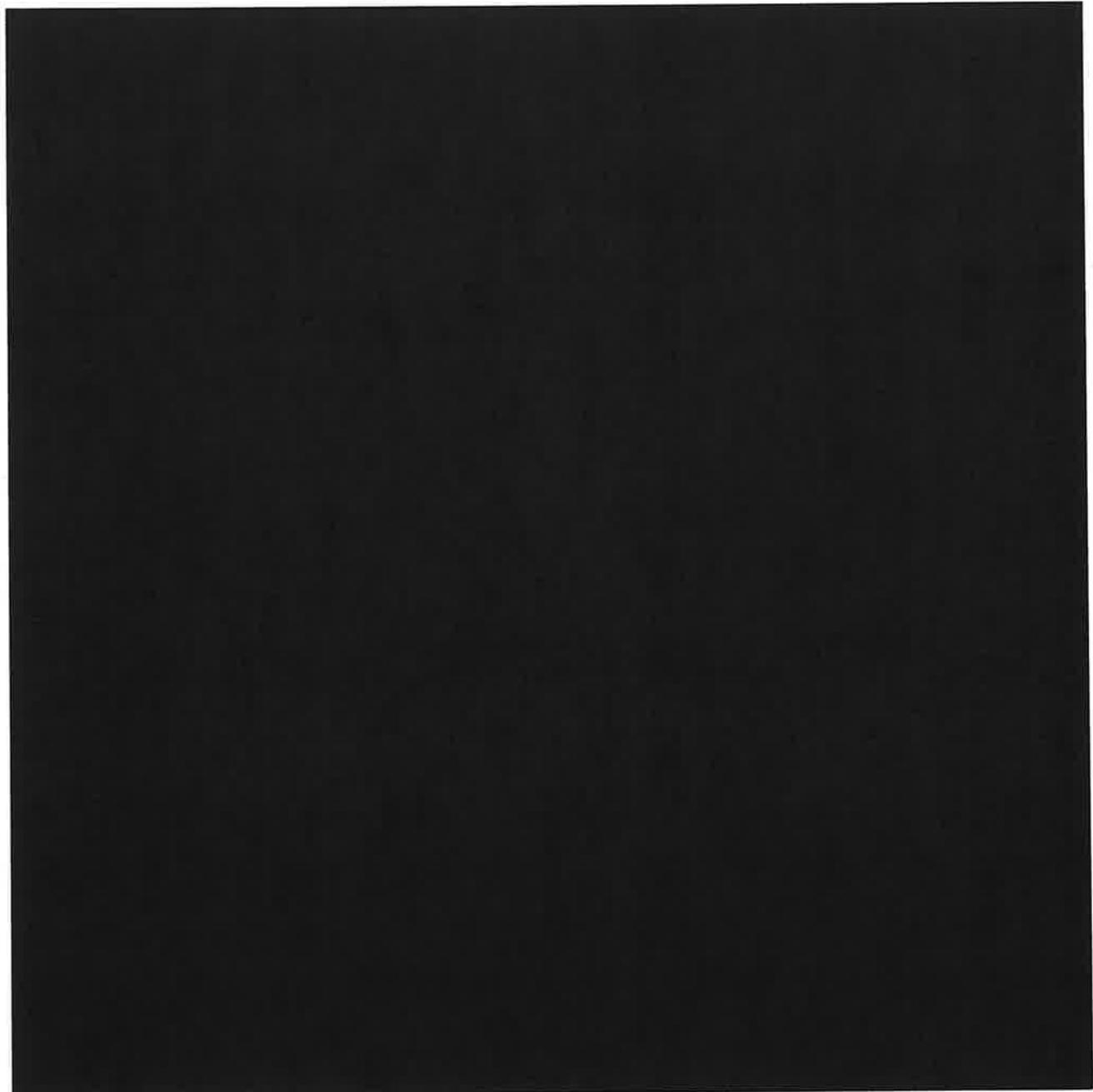




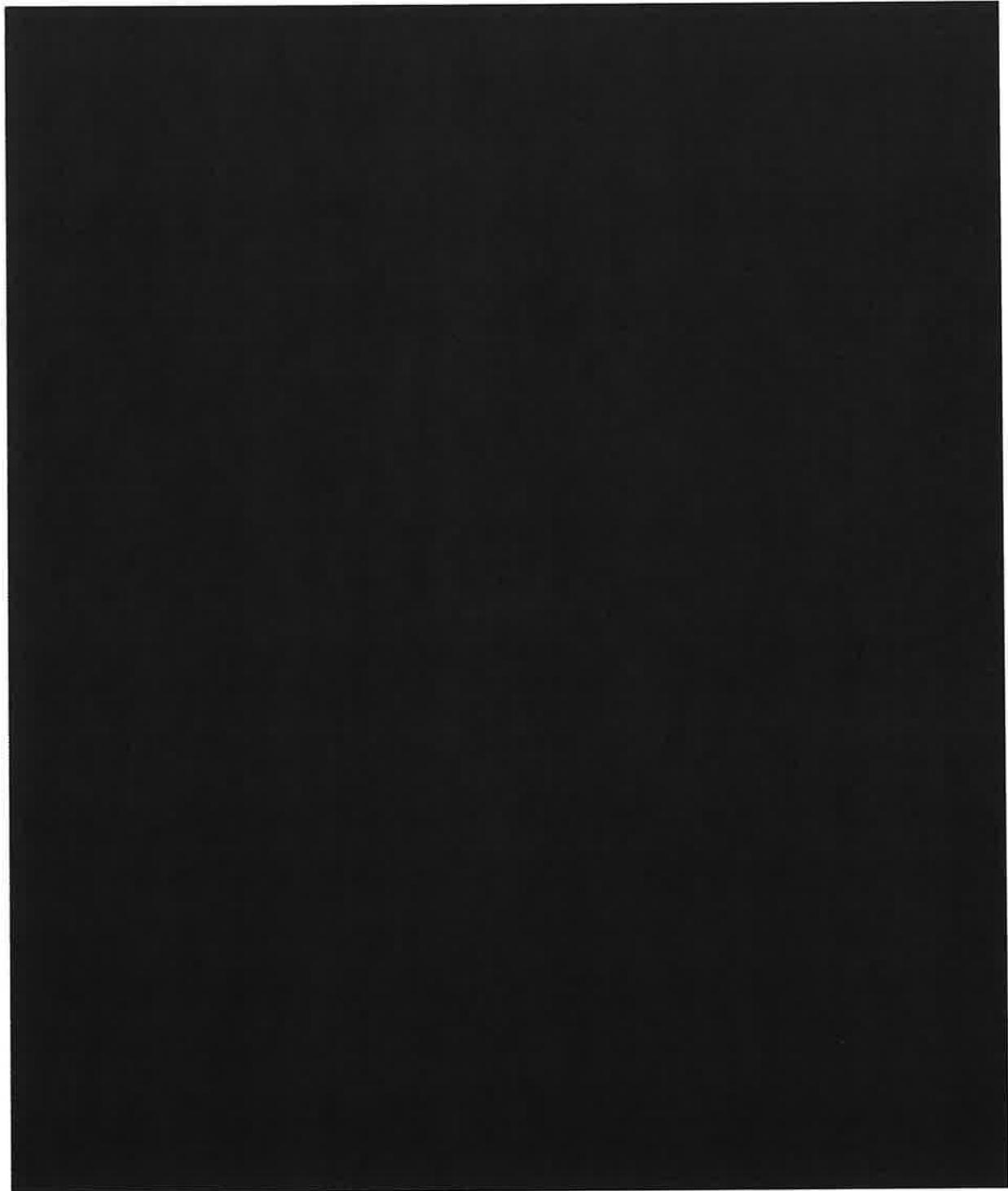




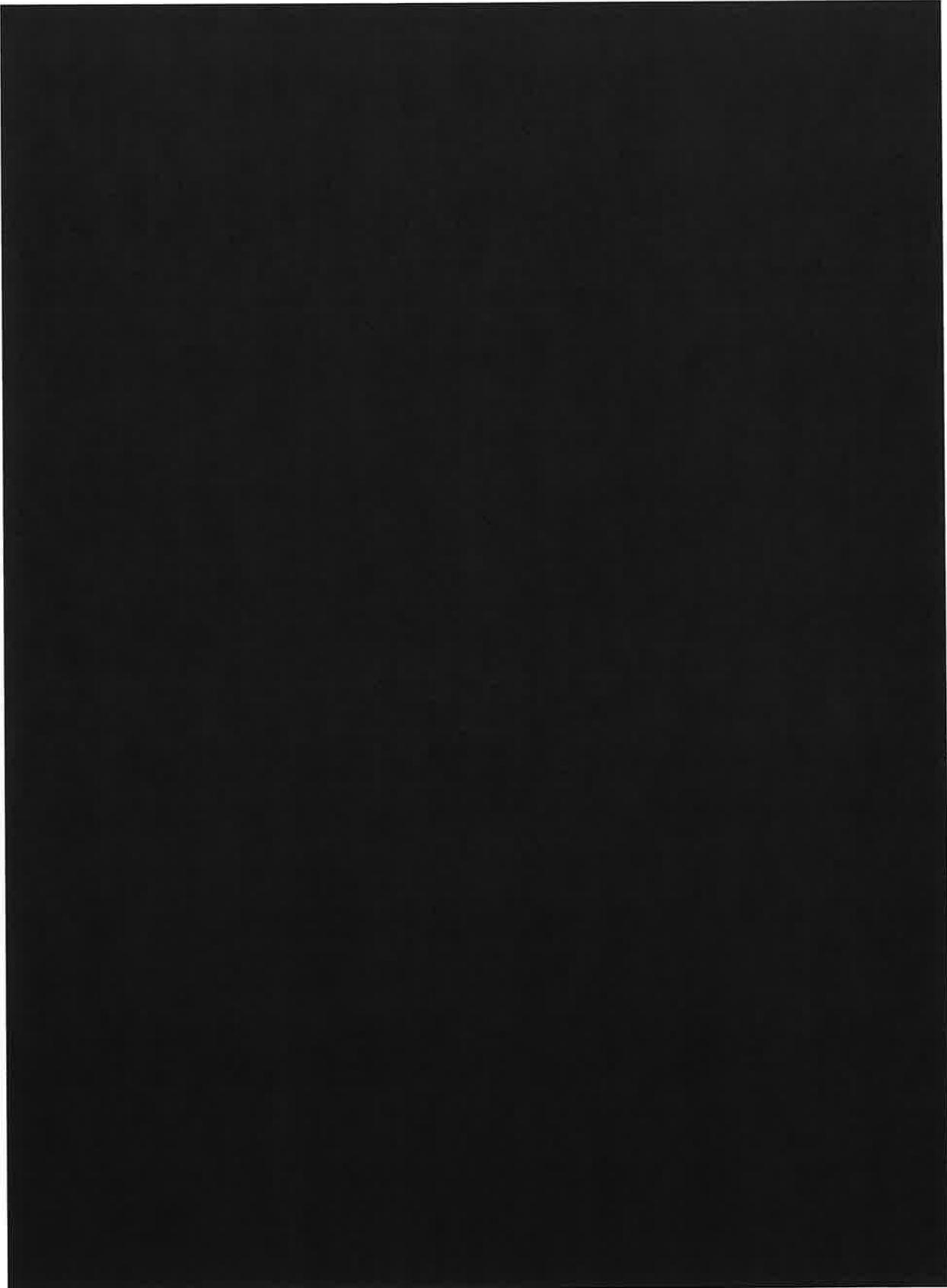




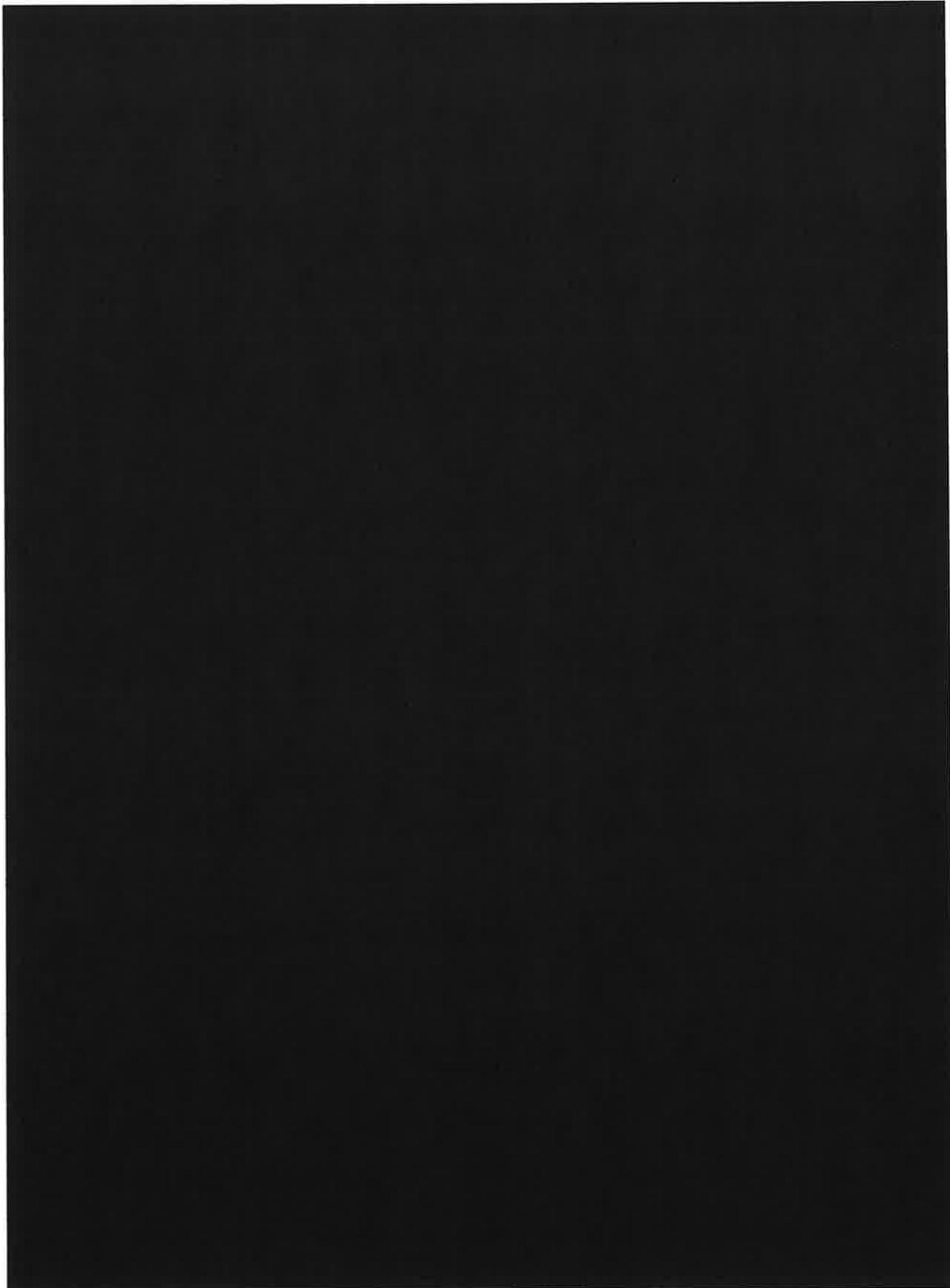


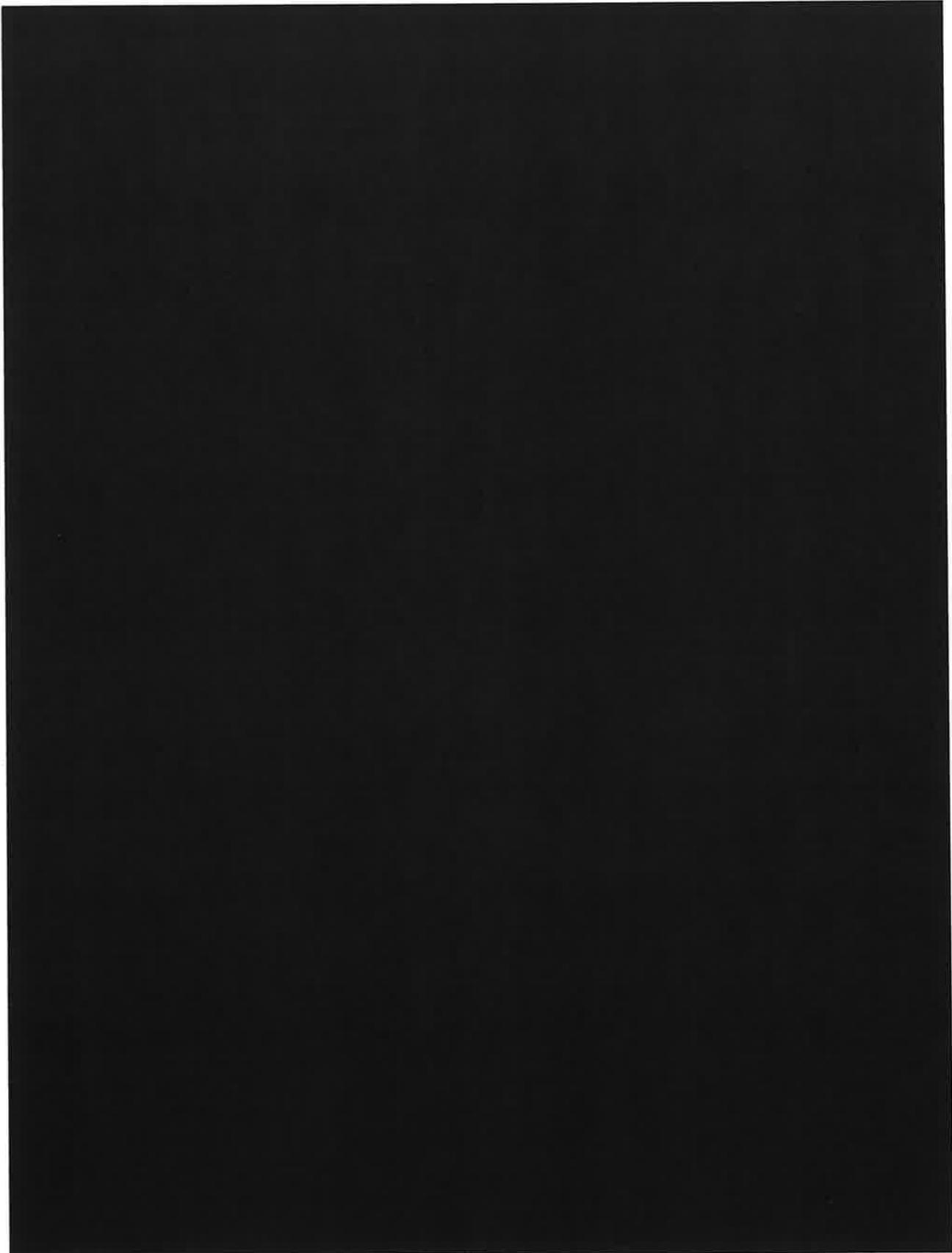






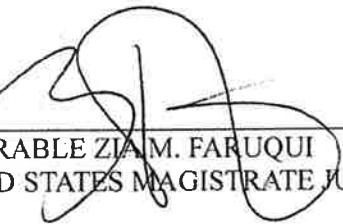








Attested to by the applicants in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1
by telephone on November 26, 2025.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ZIA M. FARUQUI", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

HONORABLE ZIA M. FARUQUI
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE