

RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



Monsters of Death Row

Christopher Berry-Dee and Tony Brown

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**ALSO BY CHRISTOPHER BERRY-DEE AND TONY
BROWN**

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About the Book

FOR EVERY MAN YOU CAN FIND ON DEATH ROW, I WILL FIND YOU A HUNDRED WHO WOULD LOVE TO PULL THE SWITCH.' - Edmond Pereira, prisoners' counsel.

From the cells of Death Row come the chilling, true-life accounts of the most heinous, cruel and depraved killers of modern times. Meet grisly killers such as Bill Joe Benefiel, the 'Superglue Monster', who glued his victims eyes and noses shut, causing them to suffocate. Or Willie Crain, the deviant fisherman, who put his victim into a lobster pot, where it was eaten by sea creatures.

Many prisoners on 'the Row' have carried out serial murder, mass murder, spree killing and the desmemberment of bodies - both dead and alive. In these pages are to be found friends who have stabbed, hacked and even filleted their victims. So meet the 'Dead Men and Women Walking' from the legion of the damned in the most terrifying true crime read ever.

Also by Christopher Berry-Dee and Tony Brown

KILLERS ON THE LOOSE
CROSSING TO KILL
LONE WOLF
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU
UNSOLVED MURDERS
MY BLOODY VALENTINE
DEATH CULTS
DANGER DOWN UNDER
DIRTY CASH
TEENAGE RAMPAGE
FEMALE TERROR

MONSTERS OF DEATH ROW

Dead Men and Women Walking

Christopher Berry-Dee
and Tony Brown



*For Dee Palmer, Tatiana Maksina,
Hannah Fairall and Graham Williams*

Visit the authors' website at
www.thecriminologist.com

INTRODUCTION

The men and women on Death Row sit quietly, reflecting on the years and the pitiless chain of days and nights, the iron struggle, the ruthless discipline and institutionalised regime which culminates in a final walk along the 'Green Mile'.

On the road of life, for some individuals, there's a place called 'Murder Crossroads'. This is where two lives meet: one comes to a terrifying end, and the other takes a permanent detour, to end up at a place called 'Death Row'. And the statistics are chilling. At any one time, there are over 3,700 men and women awaiting execution in super-max facilities across America and, on average, they will have killed three times their number.

When you pick up a book called *Monsters of Death Row*, you could be forgiven if you were expecting that the people who make up the subject matter possess some visibly evil characteristic that sets them apart from the rest of the human race. To some extent, this is true, but the characteristic is not visible. It is not a physical stigma that these people wear, like the mark of Cain. No, the characteristic is lodged deep within the dark souls of such people. These are social misfits who have killed in a way by which they have demonstrated a quality of evil which transcends human comprehension, and the inhabitants of Death Row have all obtained their residential qualifications through an act of terrifyingly brutal aggravated murder.

Murder, the wilful snuffing-out of a human life, is the most serious of crimes, and those who commit murder are the most abominable of people. The act of murder is

irrevocable. It leaves in its wake a legacy of horror, devastation and misery for those bereaved families and loved ones who have been touched by its chill hand.

As with most criminals, however, there are greater and lesser degrees of evil attached to killers. Just as it would be wrong to address a petty shoplifter with the same degree of condemnation as a violent mugger, it can be said that some murderers are considerably more evil than others of their killer breed. It is this indifference to the value of human life and the high level of certainty that they would kill again, with no qualms, were they to be set free, that sets the real monsters apart from those who have killed only once, and whose crime was committed in the heat of the moment.

To qualify for a cell on 'the Row', the crime committed has to be one of 'aggravated first-degree murder', and the law in the USA requires that the aggravating circumstances have to be proved. It may be rape or burglary, or simply trying to avoid being given a speeding ticket by a cop. The murder of a police, fire or correctional officer qualifies for aggravated first-degree murder, as does, in certain circumstances, causing a victim to suffer agonising physical pain and tortuous mental anguish before death. In other words, the murder has to have been committed in tandem with another criminal offence.

For example, 33-year-old James Leroy Brett currently sits on Death Row at the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla, and Christopher Berry-Dee has interviewed him. Brett explained that he was convicted of the shooting to death of Kenneth Milosevich. The aggravating circumstances were that the murder was committed: (1) to conceal his identity; (2) in the furtherance of robbery in the first degree; and (3) in the course of, in furtherance of, or in immediate flight from burglary in the first degree and kidnapping in the first degree. Brett was convicted on 11 June 1992, and he was sentenced to death seven days later.

But what is Death Row like? Christopher has visited many death rows, but the one that stands out in his mind is at the Somers Correctional Institute, Connecticut, where he interviewed the serial killer Michael Ross.

Ross, like all Death Row residents, remains in his cell 21 hours a day, in what is called 'lockdown', even for meals, when food trays and a drink are pushed through a slot in the bars. He will shower once a week.

After a long walk through the main prison, and the climbing of many stairs, I finally arrived at a brown-painted, steel door. In white was stencilled 'Death Row'. It was opened and I was immediately struck by the sweet smell of cheap disinfectant, the stale odour of human sweat, urine and fried food. The smell permeated every brick and the tier was deathly quiet. Of the seven inhabitants, five had been allowed recreation because of my visit. Cobb and Ross were in their cells. Cobb was quiet, and I gave him due respect, ever mindful that he was just a few steps away from the chair and that he might sit in it any day. It was a dreadful place, devoid of sunlight and fresh air. It was worse than the row depicted in The Silence of the Lambs. And, when I entered the cell of Ross, everything started to matter.

Michael Ross is a monster, and the monsters on Death Row are not normal human beings. They have carried out serial murder, mass murder, spree killing, necrophilia, dismemberment of bodies, both dead and alive. They have bludgeoned their victims; they have buried them while they still clung on to life. They have suffocated them, strangled them and choked them, forcing debris down their throats, sadistically watching their victim's faces contort into grotesque masks of death.

Many of the killers described in these pages are fiends who have stabbed, hacked and even filleted their victims, some of whom were only a few months old. They have even set fire to their prey. There are drive-by killers, cop-killers, child-killers, sexual psychopaths, sadists, cannibals and those who have slaughtered loved ones, family and friends.

These monsters have trawled the highways and byways, they have met their victims at 'Murder Crossroads', and they have ended up on Death Row.

Once a prisoner is on 'the Row', there are only three ways out: commutation of sentence, death by natural causes and execution. The first of these, commutation of sentence, is dependent upon a successful appeal. As a safeguard against any possible miscarriage of justice, the USA has put in place an appeal process - which may stretch over a decade - and, monster or not, every killer is given a chance to argue the fairness of their trial and conviction. In the majority of appeal cases the best that the convicted killer can hope for is to be allowed to exchange a death sentence for one of life and a different colour uniform.

'The Row' is the ultimate leveller. There is no colour or class distinction but, as one inmate put it, very pragmatically, 'There are no rich men on Death Row.' Not as noisy as the Special Segregation Units, which house the continually disruptive, mentally unstable and most violent inmates, who shower visitors with foul language, excrement and urine, Death Row can be as quiet as a tomb. In this dread place, the men, and women, sit quietly, reflecting on the years and the pitiless chain of days and nights, the iron struggle, the ruthless discipline and institutionalised regime which culminates in a final walk along the 'Green Mile'.

A note on the text: wherever possible, complete details of inmates' numbers and dates of birth are given. However, in

some cases this information has not been available to the authors. Dates given are in UK format.

The opinions and beliefs expressed in this volume do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or publishers.

Christopher Berry-Dee and Tony Brown
The Criminology Research Institute, England 2002

1. STATISTICS AND METHODS OF EXECUTION

THE FIRST RECORDED execution in the territory known as the United States of America was that of Daniel Frank, who was put to death in 1622 in the Colony of Virginia for the crime of theft. Since then, the death penalty has almost always been a feature of the criminal justice system, first in the American colonies and then, after independence, in the US. By the end of the 1960s all but ten states had laws authorising capital punishment and there were an average of 130 executions per year. However, significant opposition during this period resulted in an unofficial moratorium on executions for several years, with the last execution of the old system taking place in 1967.

Legal challenges to the death penalty resulted in a 5-4 US Supreme Court decision known as *Furman vs. Georgia* (1972), which dismantled federal and state capital punishment laws and permitted wide discretion in the application of the death penalty. Characterising these laws as 'arbitrary and capricious', the majority ruled that they constituted cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution. Only two of the justices concurring in the decision declared capital punishment to be unconstitutional in all instances. However, other concurrences by three other justices focused on the arbitrariness of the application of capital punishment, including the appearance of racial bias against black defendants. In all, nine separate opinions - five invalidating existing laws and four arguing for their retention - were written by the nine Supreme Court

justices spelling out their different views on what constituted the 'cruel and unusual punishment' prohibited by the Eighth Amendment.

More than 600 death row inmates who had been sentenced to death between 1967 and 1972 had their death sentences lifted as a result of *Furman*, but the numbers quickly began to build up again as states enacted revised legislation tailored to satisfy the Supreme Court's objections to arbitrary imposition of death sentences. These laws were of two major types: the first type, providing for guided discretion, was upheld by the Supreme Court in three related cases in Georgia, Texas and Florida. Statutes validated by the Supreme Court afforded sentencing courts the discretion to impose death sentences for specified crimes and provided for two-stage, or 'bifurcated' trials, involving in the first stage the determination of a defendant's guilt or innocence and, in the second, determination of the sentence after consideration of aggravating and mitigating circumstances. In Georgia and Texas, the final sentencing decision rested with the jury, and in Florida with the judge.

Those laws which provided a mandatory death penalty for specific crimes, and allowing no judicial or jury discretion beyond the determination of guilt, were declared unconstitutional in North Carolina and Louisiana, both in 1976. These rulings led directly to the invalidation of mandatory death penalty statutes in 21 states, and resulted in the modification of the sentences of hundreds of offenders from death to life imprisonment.

The first execution under the new death penalty laws took place on 17 January 1977, when convicted murderer Gary Gilmore was executed by firing squad in Utah. Gilmore's was the first execution in the United States since 1967. Executions increased dramatically in 1984, and there have been at least 10 executions in the US every year since. There were 74 executions in 1997. From 1977 to

1997, a total of 432 executions took place. Of the executed prisoners during this period, 266 were white, 161 were black, and five were of other races. By the end of 1997, 38 states, the Federal Government and the US Military authorised the death penalty. Those jurisdictions without the death penalty include twelve states (Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin) and the District of Columbia.

The most common methods of execution in the USA are electrocution and lethal injection (of poison), with a few states providing the option of asphyxiation by gas. A couple of states also provide for execution by firing-squad or hanging. Below is a list of methods of execution by state. This information was up to date as of October 2002 although statistics vary at source.

LETHAL INJECTION

Arizona [1, 2, 5]; Arkansas [1, 2, 5]; California; Colorado; Connecticut; Delaware [1, 2, 5]; Idaho [1, 2, 8]; Illinois; Indiana; Kansas; Louisiana; Maryland [1, 2]; Mississippi [1, 2]; Missouri [1, 2, 8]; Montana; Nevada; New Hampshire [1, 2]; New Jersey; New Mexico; New York; North Carolina [1, 10]; Ohio [1, 10]; Oklahoma [1, 2]; Oregon; Pennsylvania; South Carolina [1, 2, 10]; South Dakota; Texas; Utah [1, 10]; Virginia [1, 2, 10]; Washington [1, 2, 10]; Wyoming [1, 2].

ELECTROCUTION

Alabama; Arkansas [1, 5]; Florida; Georgia; Kentucky; Nebraska; Ohio [1, 2, 10]; Oklahoma [1, 3]; South Carolina [1, 2, 10]; Tennessee; Virginia [1, 10].

LETHAL GAS

Arizona [1, 5]; Maryland [1, 9]; Mississippi [1, 6]; Missouri [1, 8]; North Carolina [1, 2, 10]; Wyoming [1, 3].

HANGING

Delaware [1, 5]; New Hampshire [1, 7]; Montana [1, 3]; Washington [1, 10].

FIRING SQUAD

Idaho [1, 2]; Oklahoma [1, 4]; Utah [1, 10].

NO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Alaskas; Hawaii; Iowa; Maine; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; North Dakota; Rhode Island; Vermont; West Virginia; Washington, DC; Wisconsin.

1 - Authorises two or more methods of execution; 2 - primary method of execution; 3 - authorised if the primary method is held unconstitutional; 4 - authorised if the secondary method is held unconstitutional; 5 - authorised for those inmates sentenced before the date established for the primary method to select between the two methods; 6 - authorised for those inmates sentenced before the date established for the primary method; 7 - authorised only if primary method cannot be used; 8 - DC director chooses method of execution; 9 - authorises lethal gas for only one (1) inmate; 10 - inmate chooses method of execution.

US EXECUTIONS SINCE 1977 (as of 10 October 2002)

Texas 285

Virginia 86

Missouri 58

Florida 53

Oklahoma 52

Georgia 30

South Carolina 28

Louisiana 28
Arkansas 25
Alabama 23
Arizona 22
North Carolina 21
Delaware 13
Illinois 12
California 10
Nevada 9
Indiana 9
Utah 6
Mississippi 5
Ohio 4
Washington 4
Nebraska 3
Pennsylvania 3
Maryland 3
Montana 2
Kentucky 2
Oregon 2
Wyoming 1
Colorado 1
Idaho 1
Tennessee 1
New Mexico 1
Total 797

US EXECUTIONS BY YEAR (As of 10 October 2002)

1977 - 1
1978 - 0
1979 - 2
1980 - 0
1981 - 1
1982 - 2
1983 - 5

1984 - 21
1985 - 18
1986 - 18
1987 - 25
1988 - 11
1989 - 16
1990 - 23
1991 - 14
1992 - 31
1993 - 38
1994 - 31
1995 - 56
1996 - 45
1997 - 74
1998 - 68
1999 - 98
2000 - 85
2001 - 66
2002 - 48

US EXECUTIONS BY RACE AND GENDER (as of June 2001)

White	440 (56.4%)
Black	271 (34.7%)
Hispanic	56 (6.2%)
Native Am	7 (1.6%)
Asian	6 (0.8%)
Male	771 (98.8%)
Female	9 (1.2%)

WOMEN EXECUTED SINCE 1977

Velma Barfield (North Carolina) 2-11-84
Karla Faye Tucker (Texas) 3-02-98
Judy Buenoana (Florida) 30-3-98
Betty Lou Beets (Texas) 24-2-2000

Christina Riggs (Arkansas) 2-5-2000
Wanda Jean Allen (Oklahoma) 11-1-2001
Marilyn Platz (Oklahoma) 4-12-2001
Lois Nadean Smith (Oklahoma) 4-12-2001
Lynda Lyon Block (Alabama) 10-5-2002
Aileen Wuronos (Florida)

US EXECUTIONS SINCE 1930

1930-1939	1,690
1940-1949	1,284
1950-1959	717
1960-1969	191
1970-1979	3
1980-1989	117
1990-1999	518
2000-2010	198 (as of 2002)
Total	4,718

As of July 2002, 3,718 inmates were awaiting execution on Death Row in the United States.

CURRENT DEATH ROW BY RACE

White	1,683 (46.3%)
Black	1,597 (42.9%)
Hispanic	347 (8.7%)
Native Am	42 (1.3%)
Asian	41 (0.8%)
Unknown	17 (0.5%)

CURRENT DEATH ROW BY GENDER

Male	3,657 (98.5%)
Female	54 (1.5%)

CURRENT DEATH ROW BY AGE

Over 18 (at time of murder)	3,628 (97.8%)
Under 18 (at time of murder)	83 (2.2%)

Those executed during 1998 spent an average of 10 years, 10 months awaiting execution.

Of the 3,593 inmates on Death Row as of 1 Jan 2001:

- 64% had a prior felony conviction at the time of the murder.
- 8% had a prior homicide conviction at the time of the murder.
- 7% had criminal charges pending at the time of the murder.
- 28% were on probation, parole or serving time at the time of the murder.
- 3.9% were incarcerated or had escaped from incarceration.
- 16% had accumulated more than one death sentence.
- 23% were married, 21% divorced, 3% widowed, and 54% never married.
- 48% were high school/GED graduates.
- 54 (1.4%) were women.
- 72 (2.3%) were under 18 at the time of the murder.
- 10 (0.3%) were 60 years or over at the time of the murder.
- The average age was 38 years (28 sentencing).
- The youngest inmate was sentenced to death in Arizona in October 2000 at the age of 18 years, 6 months, and as of 1 January 2001 was 18 years, 9 months old.
- The oldest inmate was sentenced to death in Arizona in June 1983 at the age of 67, and as of 1 January 2001 was 85 years old.

Sources: Capital Punishment 2000

Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Below is a description of how each method of execution is carried out, along with a sample of state protocol on the

method.

LETHAL INJECTION

'People think this is all painless and stuff like that. It ain't! Basically, they [the condemned] suffer a lot. They are sort of paralysed but they can hear. They drown in their own fluid and suffocate to death, really. Yeah, we get problems. Sometimes the guy doesn't want to get onto the table. But we have the largest guard in Texas here. He gets them on that table, no problem. They are strapped down in seconds. No problem. They go on that mean old table and get the goodnight juice whether they like it or not.'

Assistant Warden-in-Charge of Executions, Neil Hodges, to the authors, 1985.

Lethal injection is the most commonly used means of execution in the United States of America. Execution by lethal injection involves the continuous intravenous injection of a lethal quantity of a short-acting barbiturate in combination with a chemical paralytic agent. A number of doctors have pointed out that drugs may not work effectively on diabetics or former drug users, whose veins may be hard to reach. In some cases minor surgery may be required to cut in to a deeper vein, according to medical testimony.

The inmate is first secured with ankle and wrist straps in the preparation room outside the death chamber, then the cardiac monitor leads and a stethoscope are attached. Two saline intravenous lines are started, one in each arm - occasionally in the leg - and the condemned person is covered with a sheet up to the chest.

The saline lines are turned off and three massive doses of lethal drugs are injected in turn. Sodium thiopental causes unconsciousness, usually within a few minutes. Pancuronium bromide (the generic name for Pavulon) is a

total muscle relaxant that paralyses the lungs and stops the breathing. Potassium Chloride arrests the heart, causing death.

States using Lethal Injection: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming and also the US Military and US Government.

TEXAS' PROTOCOL ON EXECUTION BY LETHAL INJECTION

Texas leads the nation in the number of executions it has performed in recent history, and has been on a record-setting pace to date. Texas adopted lethal injection as its sole method of execution in 1977. The following is a partial description of Texas' protocol on execution by lethal injection.

- Texas does not conduct a 'mock' execution prior to each actual execution, but execution security personnel conduct regular drills to ensure their ability to function as a team.
- Texas does not employ a single executioner to perform an execution by lethal injection; it uses an injection team consisting of Texas Department of Criminal Justice employees who perform the execution without additional compensation and on a voluntary basis. These individuals are required to have sufficient medical knowledge to perform their required duties. There is no psychological evaluation to determine an employee's fitness for the team.

Employees serve on the injection team until they resign or are replaced.

- The execution facility consists of a separate building within the secure perimeter of the Huntsville Unit. It contains a four-room suite (consisting of a room where the injection team is located), the execution chamber, and two sight- and sound-separated witness rooms. Immediately adjacent to these rooms, and within the same building, is a secure housing area with ten holding cells where the prisoner is received from the Ellis Unit prior to the execution.
- After clearances have been received from the governor and the attorney general, the condemned offender is escorted by five correctional officers from a holding cell to the execution chamber next door. There he is placed on a gurney and secured by leather straps located at the wrists, biceps, chest, stomach and legs. The offender is not masked or hooded during the execution. The offender is permitted head movement so that he may turn his head to face witnesses (the media, his family, and the victims' families) when making a final statement.
- Before any witnesses are brought into the execution facility, the microphone and speakers in each witness room are tested and the intravenous (IV) tubes are set up. Two administration sets are used - one for each arm. The line for the right arm is held in reserve as a contingency line in case of a malfunction or blockage in the first line. A flow of normal saline is begun. The injection team does IV preparation.
- Witnesses are escorted into the witness room. The warden asks the offender if he has any last statement. Then, the procedure is initiated. The prisoner is given a sequence of three drugs using a manual process (instead of an injection machine). First, a lethal dose of sodium thiopental is

administered, which is supposed to initially render the offender unconscious. This takes approximately 30 seconds. After a saline flush, Pancuronium bromide - a muscle relaxant - is administered to collapse the offender's diaphragm and lungs. This takes approximately 45 seconds. After a second saline flush, potassium chloride is administered to stop the offender's heart. This takes approximately 30 seconds. The administration of drugs takes less than two minutes.

- Several minutes after the last signs of life are evident, the warden asks the physician to be brought in to pronounce death. The estimated average length of time that elapses from the time that the offender is restrained until the time that death is determined is seventeen minutes.
- Texas authorises the following individuals to attend an execution: departmental staff deemed necessary by the executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; members of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice; departmental chaplains and, if requested by the offender, a personal minister with appropriate credentials; the Walker County (Texas) judge and sheriff; a media pool consisting of one reporter from the *Huntsville Item*, a United Press International reporter, an Associated Press reporter, and one additional print media representative (typically from the offender's county of residence), and a broadcast representative selected from rotating lists of applicants maintained by the department's public information office; not more than five (non-inmate) relatives or friends of the offender; not more than five close relatives of the deceased victim. (If there are fewer than five close relatives, witnesses may include close relatives of a

- victim for whose death the offender has been convicted but not sentenced to death.)
- Staff members newly assigned to the execution function are required to attend a debriefing (facilitated by the department's Post-Trauma Staff Support Program) within 72 hours of their participation in their first execution. No formal debriefing is held for experienced execution staff members, though referrals to counsellors are available.
 - Texas does not report if it has a written protocol on executions.

ELECTROCUTION

Electrocution produces visibly destructive effects as the body's internal organs are burned; the prisoner often leaps forward against the restraining straps when the switch is thrown. The body changes colour, the flesh swells and may even catch fire. The prisoner may defecate, urinate or vomit blood. Witnesses always report that there is a nauseating smell of burning flesh and all electrocution chambers are equipped with sickness bags. In most states, the condemned person has their head shaved, and also the leg where the ankle electrode is attached. Cotton wadding is then pushed into the ears, nose and anus to prevent the leakage of boiling brain matter or faeces. A ligature is tied around the penis to prevent urination. The most common technique is 2000-2200 volts at 7-12 amperes for 60-90 seconds, possibly lowered and reapplied at various intervals until death.

Dozens of men and women have suffered excruciating agony on the electric chair. Death can take place within seconds as the current may destroy the brain instantly; however, it is not unusual for the condemned to live for as long as twenty minutes. The chair, in which Willie Francis

sat, malfunctioned. Drunken workmen had improperly connected the cables. Less than the full current passed through his body and, despite several shocks being administered, he survived. He described the pain as 'the fires of Hell'. After an appeal, the second attempt to kill him was successful.

In the 27 July 1893 execution of William Taylor, the chair had a malfunction which took an hour to repair, during which time he died in agony. More recent botched electrocutions include the 4 May 1990 execution of Jesse Tafero, which required four power surges and had flames, sparks and smoke emanating from the hood on his head. The flames, which shot several feet above his head, were caused by the sponge placed under the death cap. All sponges used today are natural sea sponges and are fire resistant. States using Electrocution: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

FLORIDA'S PROTOCOL ON EXECUTION BY ELECTROCUTION

Florida adopted electrocution as its sole method of execution in 1923, replacing the previous method of hanging, although, in January 2000, the Florida Legislature passed a resolution that now allows for lethal injection as an alternative method of execution. The first execution by electrocution performed in Florida occurred in 1924. Executions are performed at Florida State Prison in the town of Starke. The following is a partial description of Florida's protocol on execution by electrocution.

- Prior to each execution, the execution equipment is tested. Additionally, testing of the execution equipment is performed a minimum of eight times

each year. A 'mock' execution is performed prior to each actual execution.

- Florida employs a single executioner. The executioner must exhibit a willingness to participate and must uphold the confidentiality of the execution proceedings. To select an executioner, the position is originally advertised in newspapers. Applications are taken and evaluated. Applicants are interviewed (but are not given a psychological evaluation). The Florida Department of Corrections does not report who conducts these interviews or evaluations or who selects the executioner, nor does the department report whether the executioner serves only for a single execution or serves until he resigns or is replaced. The executioner is compensated.
- The execution team consists of administrative, maintenance, security and medical staff who are selected by the superintendent of Florida State Prison. The superintendent is in charge of the team. The execution team members are not compensated for their services. Service on the team is voluntary for all members except for the superintendent and the medical executive director.
- Criminal Justice Committee staff have reviewed numerous documents provided by the department to try to ascertain what the procedures are on the day of execution. To the best of the staff's knowledge, the following presents a partial description of Florida's current procedures for executing a condemned offender by electrocution.
- Staff at Florida State Prison supervise the shaving of the crown of the condemned offender's head and the offender's right leg from the knee to the ankle.
- Official witnesses, who have reported to Florida State Prison's Administration Building, are greeted by two designated Department of Corrections' staff

and, as a group, are escorted by the designated staff to the main entrance of Florida State Prison, cleared by security, and escorted to the staff dining room where they remain until escorted to the witness room of the execution chamber by the designated escort staff.

- Authorised media witnesses are picked up at a designated media area at New River Correctional Institution by two designated Department of Corrections' escort staff, transported to the main entrance of Florida State Prison as a group, cleared by security, and escorted to the population visiting park where they remain until escorted to the witness room of the execution chamber by the designated escort staff.
- The offender is escorted to the shower area. Following the shower, the offender is returned to his assigned cell and issued underwear, a pair of trousers, a dress shirt or blouse (as appropriate) and socks. The offender wears no shoes. A suit coat is not worn by the offender during the execution but is placed on the offender's body after the execution proceedings.
- At the direction of the superintendent, all calls are forwarded to the execution chamber from the Governor's office through a switchboard extension. Should institutional telephone lines fail at any time during the process, the switchboard operator immediately advises the Command Center, which is located within hearing range of the switchboard operator. Telephones in the execution chamber are checked. Staff also ensure that a fully charged cellular telephone is in the execution chamber. Sample telephone calls are placed to each telephone to ensure proper operation. The public address

system is also checked to ensure its proper operation.

- A saturated saline solution is mixed and two natural sea sponges are placed in the solution.
- Staff establish telephone communication with the Governor's office on behalf of the superintendent. This phone line remains open during the entire execution proceeding.
- Staff verify that water on X-wing is turned off.
- The executioner is present in the execution chamber.
- Staff ensure that a salt-free, hypoallergenic, electrically conducive gel is applied to the crown of the offender's shaven head and the calf of the offender's right leg in a total application of approximately 4 ounces.
- Just prior to the execution, the superintendent reads the death warrant to the offender and the offender is allowed to make a last statement.
- Official witnesses are secured in the witness room of the execution chamber by two designated Department of Corrections' escort staff. The same procedure is followed with the media witnesses. The witness room of the execution chamber is secured. The execution chamber is secured.
- Staff apply restraints to the offender for escort into the execution chamber. Prior to the offender being escorted, security arrangements have been made for his movement from his Q-wing cell to the execution chamber in compliance with a schedule set by the superintendent. At the offender's request and subject to the approval of the superintendent or assistant superintendent, the chaplain may accompany the offender to the execution chamber. The time is recorded when the offender enters the chamber.
- The offender enters the execution chamber and is placed in the electric chair. The chair is constructed

of oak and is set on a rubber matting and bolted to a concrete floor. Lap, chest, arm and forearm straps are secured. When the straps are secured, the restraints are removed and ankle straps are secured. A leg piece (anklet) is laced to the offender's right calf and a sponge and electrode is attached. Staff ensures that the sponge covers all areas of the electrode to prevent any contact of the electrode with the offender's skin, and also ensures that the sponge is sufficiently wet (slightly dripping). The headpiece is secured. The headgear consists of a metal headpiece covered with a leather hood, which conceals the offender's face. The metal part of the headpiece-consists of a copper wire mesh screen to which the electrode is brazened. A wet sponge is placed between the electrode and the offender's scalp. Excess saline solution from the sponge is dried with a clean towel. During the execution, two Department of Corrections' staff members are posted in the execution chamber to ensure that the offender is seated and that the electrocution equipment is properly connected.

- A staff member then proceeds to the outside open telephone line to inquire of any possible stays of execution. If there are no stays, the execution proceeds.
- The safety switch is closed. The circuit breaker is engaged. The execution control panel is activated. The executioner is signalled either verbally or by gesture to engage the execution switch and the automatic cycle begins. While the automatic cycle has five cycles only three cycles are used. The automatic cycle begins with the programmed 2,300 volts (9.5 amps) for eight seconds, followed by 1,000 volts (4 amps) for 22 seconds, followed by 2,300 volts (9.5 amps) for eight seconds. When the cycle is

complete, the electrician indicates that the current is off. Equipment is disconnected. The manual circuit behind the chair is disengaged. The safety switch is opened. The time in which the execution switch is disengaged is recorded.

- Two minutes after the electrical current ceases, the physician examines the offender's body for vital signs. The physician pronounces the offender's death and the time of death. The estimated average length of time that elapses from the time the offender is restrained to the time that death is determined is ten minutes. The physician signs the death certificate, and the physician and physician's assistant ensure that the proper documents are recorded. If the offender is not pronounced dead, the execution cycle is then ordered to be repeated.
- The Governor is notified via the open phone line that the sentence has been carried out and that the offender has been pronounced dead. There is another announcement to the official witnesses and the media that the sentence has been carried out. Then, the witnesses and media are directed to exit the witness room. The official witnesses, except for the designated Inspector General (IG) witness, and the media pool are escorted from the witness room by designated Department of Corrections' escort staff. The designated IG witness remains in the witness room. After all other witnesses have exited the building; the IG designee is allowed entry into the execution chamber for evidence collection. The IG designee is authorized to collect both the head and leg sponges (which are placed in a plastic bag and securely sealed), inspect the execution equipment, make notes, and depart with these materials. If an unusual incident or problem should occur during an execution, the IG designee is also authorized to