

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS  
EXECUTION PROTOCOL MANUAL

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## INTRODUCTION: GENERAL PROVISIONS

### I. Purpose of Manual

The purpose of this manual is to outline Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) policy and procedures for planning and carrying out the execution of a person convicted of a capital offense. These procedures should be observed and followed as written unless deviation or adjustment is required, as determined by the Director of the BOP or the Warden. This manual explains internal government procedures and does not create any legally enforceable rights or obligations.

### II. Organization

This manual provides specific time related checklists for pre-execution, execution and post execution procedures as well as detailed procedures related to the execution process, command center operations, contingency planning, news media procedures, and handling stays, commutations and other delays.

### III. Cross References

- A. Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 26
- B. Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 1
- C. Inmate Systems Management - Program Statement 5800.07, Paragraph 807
- D. Searching, Detaining, Non-Inmates; Arresting Authority; Metal Detectors - Program Statement 5510.03
- E. Contact with News Media - Program Statement 1480.03
- F. Accounting Management Manual - Program Statement 2000.2, Chapter 10950
- G. Command Centers - Operations Memorandum 075.92

### IV. Policy

- A. It is the policy of the BOP that the execution of a person sentenced to death under Federal law by a court of competent authority and jurisdiction be carried out in an efficient and humane manner.
- B. The BOP will make every effort in the planning and preparation of an execution to ensure that the execution process:
  - 1. faithfully adheres to the letter and intent of the law;

2. is handled in a manner that minimizes the negative impact on the safety, security, and operational integrity of the correctional institution in which it occurs and the BOP in general;
  3. accommodates the public's right to obtain information concerning the event;
  4. reasonably addresses the privacy interests of those persons for whom the law, and BOP policy require such privacy;
  5. provides sufficient contingency planning to ensure that unforeseen problems can be addressed and overcome;
  6. allows for stays of execution, commutations and other delays in the execution countdown;
  7. provides an opportunity for interested persons to exercise their First Amendment rights to demonstrate for or against capital punishment in a lawful manner; and
  8. ensures a firm and adequate response to unlawful civil disobedience, trespass, or other violations of the law by persons attempting to disrupt or prevent the execution.
- C. The BOP will seek the arrest and encourage the prosecution of persons, including but not limited to those who:
1. violate prohibitions against filming, taping, broadcasting, or otherwise electronically documenting the death of the condemned individual;
  2. trespass or otherwise enter upon BOP property without proper permission and clearance from the Warden;
  3. participate in unlawful demonstrations;
  4. unlawfully attempt to disrupt, prevent, or otherwise interfere with the execution;
  5. being inmates, are involved in disruptive, assaultive, or other lawfully proscribed behavior related to an execution; or
  6. unlawfully threaten, intimidate, or terrorize persons involved in the execution process.
- D. BOP staff involved in the execution will make every effort within the limits of these policies and procedures and the laws of the United States, to:

1. display appropriate levels of professionalism, restraint, and courtesy in interaction with witnesses, demonstrators, news media, and other non-staff persons during the execution process;
  2. prevent emotion or intimidation from hindering efforts to carry out assigned duties; and
  3. conduct themselves at all times in a manner reflecting the solemnity and sensitivity of the occasion.
- E. BOP Mental Health and Religious Services personnel will be available for counseling sessions with all personnel participating directly in an execution process, before and after an execution.
- F. Each execution will be fully evaluated by the institution, region, and Central Office staff. If warranted, recommendations will be made and considered in order to improve procedures.