

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**  
**CORRECTIONS SERVICES**

**Department Regulation**  
**No. C-03-001**

**20 December 1999**

**FIELD OPERATIONS**  
**Adult Institutions**  
**Death Penalty**

1. **AUTHORITY:** Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections as contained in Chapter 9 of Title 36 and La. R.S. 15:567 through 15:571.
2. **REFERENCE:** La. R.S. 46:1844(N) and Department Regulation No. C-01-013 "Public Information Program and Media Access."
3. **PURPOSE:** To set forth procedures to be followed for the lethal injection of those individuals sentenced to death.
4. **APPLICABILITY:** Assistant Secretary/Office of Adult Services and the Wardens of the Louisiana State Penitentiary and the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women.
5. **INCARCERATION PRIOR TO EXECUTION:**

Male inmates sentenced to death shall be incarcerated at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Louisiana. Female inmates sentenced to death shall be incarcerated at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women at St. Gabriel, Louisiana. Until the time for execution, the Warden shall incarcerate the inmate in a manner affording maximum protection to the general public, the employees of the Department, and the security of the institution. Female inmates shall be transported to the Louisiana State Penitentiary on the day immediately prior to the execution date.

6. **VISITS:**

- A. During the final 72 hours before the scheduled execution, the Warden may approve special visits for the condemned inmate.
- B. All visits will terminate by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the execution except visits with a priest, minister, religious advisor, or attorney which will terminate at the direction of the Warden or his designee.

7. **MEDIA ACCESS:**

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- A. Pursuant to the provisions of Department Regulation No. C-01-013, the media may contact the Warden's office to request interviews. If the Warden, inmate, and attorney (if represented by counsel) consent, the interview shall be scheduled for a time convenient to the institution.

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- B. Should the demand for interviews be great, the Warden may set a day and time for all interviews to be conducted and may specify whether interviews will be done individually or in "press conference" fashion.

**8. PRE-EXECUTION ACTIVITIES:**

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- A. The Warden shall select appropriate areas to serve as a press room and for any mobile press units.
- B. The execution room shall be off-limits to unauthorized inmates and employees from 8:00 a.m. on the day preceding the execution until such time after the execution as the Warden deems appropriate. The execution room shall also be off-limits to the public and press five days before the execution until such time after the execution as the Warden deems appropriate.
- C. All persons selected as witnesses will sign copies of the witness agreement prior to being transported to the execution room.

**9. TIME AND PLACE:**

The execution shall take place at the Louisiana State Penitentiary between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. (La. R.S. 15:570C.)

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**10. WITNESSES:**

- A. The execution shall take place in the presence of the following witnesses:
- 1) the Warden of the Louisiana State Penitentiary or designee;
  - 2) the coroner of West Feliciana Parish or deputy;
  - 3) a physician chosen by the Warden;
  - 4) a competent person selected by the Warden to administer the lethal injection; and
  - 5) a priest, minister, or religious advisor, if the inmate so requests.
- B. Not less than five nor more than seven other witnesses are required by law to be present. (La. R.S. 15:570A.) These witnesses will be selected as follows:

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- 1) Three witnesses will be members of the news media:
    - a. a representative from the Associated Press;
    - b. a representative selected from the media persons requesting to be present from the parish where the crime was committed; and
    - c. one representative selected from all other media persons requesting to be present.

These witnesses must agree to act as pool reporters for the remainder of the media present and meet with all media representatives immediately following the execution.

- 2) The remaining witnesses will be selected by the Secretary from persons whom he feels have a legitimate interest in being present.

C. Victim relationship witnesses are authorized to attend the execution (La R.S. 15:570D.)

- 1) The number of victim relationship witnesses may be limited to two. If more than two victim relationship witnesses desire to attend the execution, the Secretary is authorized to select from the interested parties the two victim relationship witnesses who will be authorized to attend.
- 2) At least ten days prior to the execution, the Secretary shall give either written or verbal notice, (followed by written notice placed in the United States mail within five days thereafter), of the date and time of execution to the victim's parents, or guardian, spouse and any adult children who have indicated to the Secretary that they desire such notice. The named parties shall be given the option of attending the execution and shall, within three days of their receipt of the notification, notify, either verbally or in writing, the Secretary's office of their intention to attend.

D. All witnesses must be residents of the State of Louisiana, over 18 years of age and all must agree to sign the report of the execution. (La. R.S. 15:570-571)

A4 ( E. No cameras or recording devices, either audio or video, will be permitted in the execution room.

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- A. The witnesses will enter the witness room where they will receive a copy of the inmate's written last statement, if a written statement is issued.
- B. The inmate will then be taken to the lethal injection room by the escorting officers. Once in the room, the inmate will be afforded the opportunity to make a last verbal statement if he so desires. He will then be assisted onto the lethal injection table and properly secured to the table by the officers. Once the officers exit the room, the Warden will close the curtain to the witness room and signal the I.V. technician to enter. The I.V. technician will appropriately prepare the inmate for execution and exit the room. The Warden will reopen the witness room curtain.
- C. The person designated by the Warden and at the Warden's direction, will then administer, by intravenous injection, a substance or substances in a lethal quantity into the body of the inmate until he is deceased.
- D. At the conclusion of the execution, the coroner or his deputy shall pronounce the inmate dead. The deceased shall then be immediately taken to an awaiting ambulance for transportation to a place designated by the next of kin or in accordance with other arrangements made prior to the execution.
- E. The Warden will make a written report reciting the manner and date of the execution which he and all of the witnesses will sign. The report shall be filed with the clerk of court in the parish where the sentence was originally imposed. (La. R.S. 15:571)
- F. No employee, including employee witnesses to the execution, except the Secretary or the Warden or their designee, shall communicate with the press regarding any aspect of the execution except as required by law.



Richard L. Stender  
Secretary

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DEPUTY WARDEN & Clerk  
LOUISIANA STATE PRISON

Attachment: Agreement by Witness to Execution

This regulation supersedes Department Regulation No. C-03-001 dated 15 September 1997 and Page Three dated 02 December 1997.

**AGREEMENT BY WITNESS TO EXECUTION**

*Handwritten initials and number 4*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a person of full age and majority, and citizen of the State of Louisiana, hereby agree to the following conditions precedent to being a witness to the execution of a sentence of death at Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola, Louisiana.

1. I agree that my presence at the execution is voluntary.
2. I agree to sign the report of the execution as required by law.
3. I agree to comply with all rules and regulations of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Louisiana State Penitentiary during the course of the proceedings leading up to, during, and after the completion of the execution.
4. I agree that I will not electronically record or photograph any activities while I am present in the lethal injection room.
5. I agree to submit to a search of my person before and after the execution if requested to do so by the Warden of the Louisiana State Penitentiary.
6. If I am a member of the press selected as a witness to the execution, I agree to act as a pool reporter for the media representatives not present at the execution, and I agree to meet with all media representatives present at the penitentiary immediately after the execution.
7. If I am an employee of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, I agree that I will make no public statements about the execution without prior approval of the Warden of the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

I have read the above agreement, understand it, and have signed it in the presence of the listed witnesses on this date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Day, Month, Year)

**WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Selected Witness  
to Execution

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