

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**GEORGIA DIAGNOSTIC AND CLASSIFICATION PRISON**  
**LETHAL INJECTION PROCEDURES**



**July 17, 2012**

**GEORGIA DIAGNOSTIC AND CLASSIFICATION PRISON  
LETHAL INJECTION PROCEDURES**

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## **LETHAL INJECTION PROCEDURES**

### **I. PRE-EXECUTION PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Designation and Notification of Staff**

The individuals listed below shall be present at each execution. At least twelve (12) hours prior to the execution, the Warden or the Warden's designee will notify the following individuals of the time and date of execution and place to report for assignment. These individuals will then acknowledge receipt of the Warden's notification. The Warden has the authority to waive the twelve (12) hour requirement on an emergency basis.

1. Warden or Deputy Warden who shall ensure that the court ordered execution is carried out.
2. Two (2) Assistants or more as directed by the Warden.
3. Two (2) Physicians - to determine when death supervenes.
4. One (1) Physician - to provide medical assistance during the execution process (may be one of the Physicians identified in I.A.3 above).
5. IV Team - to consist of two (2) or more trained personnel, including at least one (1) Nurse, to provide intravenous access.
6. Six (6) Correctional Officers to serve as a Special Escort Team who will apply restraints to the condemned during the execution process.
7. Injection Team to consist of three (3) trained staff members to inject solutions into the intravenous port(s) during the execution process.
8. One (1) Chaplain to administer to the spiritual needs of the condemned and to provide a prayer on the condemned's behalf upon request.
9. Security personnel as appropriate.

#### **B. Restrictions:**

No photographic, audio, video, recording, or computerized equipment will be permitted in the Execution Chamber or Execution Witness Room except as

specifically authorized by the Warden. Only pencils, note pads, or other writing materials issued and controlled by designated GDC staff will be permitted.

## **II. DAY OF EXECUTION**

### **A. Within Three (3) Hours of Execution**

Within three (3) hours of the scheduled execution, the following tasks shall be performed:

1. A communications check will be performed.
2. Telephone circuits and private lines between the Command Center (CP1), Execution Chamber (CP2), and the Front Gate (CP3) will be checked.
3. The Execution Chamber and Execution Witness Room will be inspected as directed by the Warden.
4. A radio check between the Command Center, Execution Chamber, and Front Gate will be initiated.

### **B. Within Two (2) Hours of Execution**

Within two (2) hours of the scheduled execution, the following tasks shall be performed:

1. Chemicals will be delivered to the H-5 Chemical Room by the Deputy Warden of Security or Correctional Major.
2. The IV Team will perform a check of all necessary equipment and instruments.
3. Communications Check - The same procedure will be followed as at three (3) hours prior to the execution as specified in Paragraph II.A.
4. The Execution Chamber and Execution Witness Room will be inspected as directed by Warden.
5. The condemned will be prepared in accordance with prior responsibilities previously designated by Warden.
6. The condemned may visit with clergy.

7. An opportunity for the condemned to make a last statement will be provided. Any such statement will be recorded by designated staff.
8. A shower and clean clothing will be provided to the condemned.
9. A designated staff member shall confirm the presence of witnesses required by O.C.G.A. §17-10-41 to attend the execution. Any final instructions will be issued by the Warden.
10. A designated staff member shall confirm the presence of the witnesses designated and approved by the Commissioner. Instructions will be issued to the witnesses to assure an understanding of their conduct in the Execution Witness Room and while being escorted to and from the Execution Witness Room. All witnesses are to have previously acknowledged, in writing, their understanding and agreement to abide by the rules, regulations, and procedures of the GDC.

### **C. Within One (1) Hour of Execution**

Within one (1) hour of the scheduled execution, the following tasks shall be performed:

1. The IV Team will perform a check of all necessary equipment and instruments.
2. The designated staff members will prepare lethal injection syringes.
3. Medical staff will perform a test on the heart monitor.
4. The condemned will be offered a mild sedative by a Physician.
5. Special Escort Team members will ensure that all straps are in place and functional on the execution gurney.
6. Communications Check: The same communications check procedures specified in Paragraph II.A. above will be repeated. In addition, the telephone lines between the Command Center (CP1), the Execution Chamber (CP2), and the Front Gate (CP3) are to remain open beginning thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled execution.
7. The Execution Chamber and Execution Witness Room will be inspected as directed by the Warden.

8. Attendees and those required by O.C.G.A. §17-10-41 to attend executions will be issued additional instructions, and will be escorted to the Execution Chamber or Execution Witness Room as appropriate. Any witnesses for the condemned inmate, any media representatives, and the State's witnesses will be processed, instructed, and transported separately.
9. Upon arrival at the Execution Witness Room, witnesses and media representatives will be confirmed. The media representative designated to observe the preparation of the condemned will be identified and confirmed. The presence of witnesses requested by the condemned and those approved by the Commissioner, including media representatives, will be confirmed.

#### **D. Preparation of the Condemned**

1. The condemned inmate will be escorted to the lethal injection gurney by member(s) of the Special Escort Team approximately twenty (20) minutes prior to the time of the execution. The Special Escort Team will securely control the movements of the condemned from the holding cell to the execution chamber.
2. The Special Escort Team will secure the condemned to the gurney by attaching restraints to the arms, legs, and body of the condemned.
3. The IV Team will provide two (2) intravenous accesses into the condemned. If the veins are such that intravenous access cannot be provided, a Physician will provide access by central venous cannulation or other medically approved alternative.
4. Heart monitor leads will be applied to the condemned by a Nurse from the IV Team.
5. Witnesses will be escorted to the Execution Witness Room.
6. The Warden will introduce himself to witnesses and issue final instructions regarding the execution.
7. The Warden will ask the condemned if he has anything to add to the final statement. Any additional statement will be limited to two (2) minutes. The statement will be recorded by designated staff. A prayer will be offered if requested by the condemned. The prayer will be limited to two (2) minutes.
8. The condemned will be read the Execution Order of the Court.

9. Execution officials will take their places.
10. The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee, shall advise the Commissioner as to whether or not to proceed. The Commissioner then instructs the Warden as to whether or not to proceed.

#### **E. Execution Process**

Upon the Order of the Warden, the execution process will proceed as follows:

1. A staff member designated by the Warden will monitor the time when the injection process begins.
2. The first member of the Injection Team will inject one (1) syringe containing 2.5 grams of Pentobarbital (labeled #1). The second member of the Injection Team will inject an additional syringe containing 2.5 grams of Pentobarbital (labeled #2). The third member of the Injection Team will inject one (1) syringe containing 60 cubic centimeters of Saline (labeled #3), ensuring a steady, even flow of the chemical.
3. Throughout the lethal injection process, an IV Nurse will monitor the progress of the injection in the Execution Chamber to ensure proper delivery of chemicals and to monitor for any signs of consciousness. If the IV Nurse in the execution chamber observes a problem with intravenous flow, the Nurse will inform the attending Physician, who will inform the Warden as to whether or not using an alternative intravenous access is appropriate. The Warden will give the appropriate instructions to the Injection Team.
4. If, after a sufficient time for death to have occurred, the condemned individual exhibits visible signs of life, the Warden shall instruct the Injection Team to administer an additional 5 grams of Pentobarbital followed by 60 cubic centimeters of Saline as outlined in Subsection 2 of Section E. above.
5. Upon completion of the injection of the final syringe, the designated Physician will advise the Warden when the heart monitor indicates that the condemned inmate is deceased. The Warden and the two Physicians will then enter the Execution Chamber to determine if death has occurred.
6. If the condemned shows residual signs of life within a reasonable period after all injections have been completed, steps 1 through 5 above will be repeated upon the order of the Warden.
7. The Warden will then announce the fact of death to the witnesses. The

Execution Chamber curtains will then be closed.

#### **F. Post Execution**

1. The witnesses and media representatives will be escorted from the Execution Witness Room. Media representatives will be immediately escorted from the prison to the press area.
2. The IV lines will be detached by the IV Team, the straps will be removed by the Special Escort Team, and the body will be removed from the gurney. The body will be placed in a body bag and placed on a stretcher provided by the State Crime Lab. The body will then be taken by van to the State Crime Lab for a postmortem examination.
3. Press release: The Public Information Officer for the Department of Corrections will advise news media that the Order of the Court has been carried out.

#### **G. Interment of Condemned.**

1. The Warden or designee and attending physicians will prepare a certificate of execution and certify the fact of execution. The certificate will be forwarded to the Clerk of Superior Court of the county in which the sentence was pronounced. A copy shall be forwarded to the Commissioner.
2. The last statement of the condemned will be forwarded to the Central Office, as appropriate.
3. Interment: The body may be released to the relatives at their expense or should the nearest relative of the condemned so desire, the body will be carried to the former home of the person so executed, if in the State of Georgia. The expense of such transportation to the former home shall be paid by the Ordinary, County Commissioners, or person(s) having the charge of county funds in which the person was convicted. (O.C.G.A. § 17-10-43).
4. If the relatives do not claim the body of the executed person, interment will be in accordance with Board of Corrections Rule 125-2-4.20.

#### **H. Critical Incident Debriefing**

1. Staff participants will be seen by the Critical Incident Debriefing Team within seventy-two (72) hours of each execution or as soon as possible.

## APPENDIX I

### IV TEAM - INSTRUCTIONS

#### **SET UP PROCEDURE:**

1. The Warden or designee will have two (2) intravenous infusion devices placed in the veins of the condemned and a Saline solution available for an infusion medium. Those persons engaged in this activity will be referred to as the IV Team.
2. An IV administration set will be inserted into the outlet of the bag of Normal Saline IV solution. Two (2) IV bags will be set up in this manner.
3. The IV tubing shall be cleared of air and made ready for use.
4. The standard procedure for providing IV access will be used.
5. The IV tubing for both set-ups will be connected to the receiving port of the IV access; one for the primary vein, the other for the secondary vein.
6. At this point, the administration sets shall be running at a slow rate of flow (KVO), and ready for the insertion of syringes containing the lethal agents. The Warden or his designee shall maintain observation of both set-ups to ensure that the rate of flow is uninterrupted. **NO FURTHER ACTION** shall be taken until the prearranged signal to start the injection of lethal agents is given by the Warden or designee.

## APPENDIX II

### CONTROLLED CHEMICAL HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR EXECUTION BY LETHAL INJECTION

The following procedures will be utilized to obtain controlled chemicals, transport the chemicals to the Execution Chamber at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison (GDCP), dispose of and/or return unused chemicals to the GDCP Pharmacy.

- A. The certificate issued by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), United States Department of Justice will be posted in the medical room of the GDCP Execution Chamber. A copy of the certificate will be kept on file at the GDCP Pharmacy.
- B. All controlled materials, blank “Controlled Chemical Disposition Record” forms, and a lockable transport case will be kept in the GDCP Pharmacy.
- C. The designated key ring, located in the Tunnel Entrance Restricted Key Box, will be utilized to gain access to the chemical storage containers, transport case and the temporary chemical storage containers located in the Execution Chamber. Access to this key ring and the receipt and/or transportation of chemicals is restricted to: Deputy Warden for Security, Correctional Major, and designated Pharmacist. In an emergency, the Warden of GDCP may designate another official this duty.
- D. On the day of a scheduled execution, one of the authorized staff members will draw the proper keys, proceed to the pharmacy and procure the appropriate amount of chemicals.
- E. The appropriate amount of chemicals to be issued is as follows: Pentobarbital – a total of 15 grams of the chemical.
- F. During the procedures outlined in step #4, the “Controlled Chemical Disposition Record” will be initiated at this time. The Pharmacy will keep a temporary copy upon issuance. The original will be kept with the chemicals in the transport case. The appropriate sections will be completed as needed.
- G. Chemicals will be delivered to the Execution Chamber and locked in the chemical storage container.
- H. Within one hour of the scheduled execution, the chemicals will be drawn into syringes to be used by the Injection Team by a trained staff member supervised by a nurse.
- I. Chemicals will be drawn up as follows:
  1. Pentobarbital – 2.5grams – Syringe #1 .

2. Pentobarbital – 2.5 grams – Syringe # 2.
3. Saline Solution – 60 cubic centimeters each - Syringe # 3.

- J. A secondary set of Syringe Numbers 1, 2 and 3 will be prepared in the manner outlined above in section I if an additional dosage of Pentobarbital is needed. The secondary set of Pentobarbital will not be drawn into Syringe Numbers 1 and 2 prior to the execution, but will be immediately available, together with the appropriate syringes, if an additional dosage of Pentobarbital is needed.
- K. The remaining chemicals, along with appropriate syringes will be locked in the transport case and placed in the mechanical room in the event they are needed.
- L. At the conclusion of the execution, the amount of each chemical injected into the condemned inmate is to be recorded on the Controlled Chemical Disposition Record form, along with the date, time, inmate name and number.
- M. Any chemical loaded into a syringe that is not used will be destroyed by disposing of the chemicals in an appropriate manner. This must be witnessed and the section completed and signed on the Controlled Chemical Disposition form.
- N. Any unused chemicals will be returned to the pharmacy via the transport case and the remainder of the Controlled Chemical Disposition Record form will be completed.
- O. The original Controlled Chemical Disposition Record form will be retained by the Pharmacy. A copy will be sent to the Warden's office for inclusion into the Execution file.
- P. An inventory will be kept by the Pharmacy of each chemical used and returned. The Controlled Chemical Disposition form and the inventory logs will be kept in a red binder attached to the chemical storage container.
- Q. The attachments 1 through 2 will be completed and submitted as required.

Attachments:           (1) Controlled Chemical Disposition Form  
                              (2) Inventory Log for Pentobarbital

**CONTROLLED CHEMICAL DISPOSITION RECORD  
(LETHAL INJECTION)**

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS – GDCP**

CHEMICALS DISPENSED BY GDCP PHARMACY

Name of Chemical – Amount	Date Issued	Lot #	Expiration	# of Vials
PENTOBARBITAL 15 GRAMS				

ISSUED BY: (SIGN AND PRINT NAME)	RECEIVED BY: (SIGN AND PRINT NAME)	DEPT/LOCATION
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CHEMICALS ADMINISTERED BY INJECTION TEAM

DATE	TIME	INMATE NAME/NUMBER	CHEMICALS	QTY
			PENTOBARBITAL	

CHEMICALS DESTROYED

CHEMICALS DESTROYED	QTY	# OF SYRINGES	DATE DESTROYED	DEPT/LOCATION
PENTOBARBITAL				

DESTROYED BY: (SIGN AND PRINT NAME)	WITNESSED BY: (SIGN AND PRINT NAME)	DEPT/LOCATION
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CHEMICALS RETURNED TO GDCP PHARMACY

DATE RETURNED	CHEMICAL RETURNED	QTY RETURNED	# OF VIALS
	PENTOBARBITAL		

RETURNED BY: (SIGN AND PRINT NAME)	RECEIVED BY: (SIGN AND PRINT NAME)	DEPT/LOCATION
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