



# Arizona Department of Corrections

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JANICE K. BREWER  
GOVERNOR

CHARLES L. RYAN  
DIRECTOR

December 22, 2014

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Governor  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

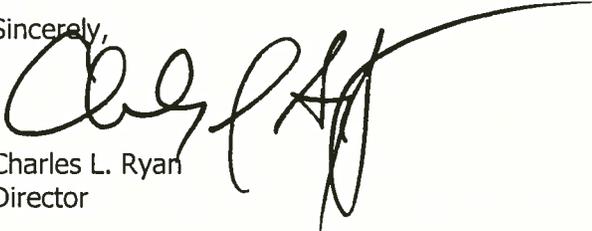
The three-member team conducting the independent review of Arizona's execution protocol, and specifically, the July 23, 2014 execution of inmate Joseph Wood, has completed their report. A copy of the report is attached for your review.

The review determined that, despite the length of time between administration of the execution drugs and the inmate's death, inmate Wood remained heavily sedated throughout the process. The IV Team Leader, a licensed medical doctor, performed 7 consciousness checks as described in the report to ensure the inmate remained sedated. The review also concluded that Arizona's execution protocol is detailed and comprehensive in scope with regard to all aspects of the process.

Based upon my review of the report and recommendations, it is my intent to retain the current one-drug protocols using either Pentobarbital or Sodium Pentothal as set forth in Attachment D to Department Order 710. The Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) will continue its efforts to procure those drugs. I further intend to remove the existing two-drug protocol using Midazolam and Hydromorphone (the protocol used in the Wood execution) and add two, three-drug protocols using either Midazolam, Vecuronium Bromide, and Potassium Chloride or Sodium Pentothal, Vecuronium Bromide, and Potassium Chloride. A three-drug protocol using Sodium Pentothal as the first drug has been successfully used by ADC in prior executions and was removed from Attachment D, Department Order 710 when Sodium Pentothal became unavailable to corrections. The three-drug protocol using Midazolam as the first drug has been successfully utilized by Florida in eight recent executions and it is a current protocol in four other states.

ADC has procured the execution chemicals that would be utilized in the three-drug protocol utilizing Midazolam as the first drug, and as stated above, is continuing its efforts to procure both Pentobarbital and Sodium Pentothal. A revision of the Department Order to reflect these changes is in process. ADC remains committed to carrying out lawful sentences of death in a transparent manner and in compliance with state and federal law.

Sincerely,

  
Charles L. Ryan  
Director

cc: Jeff Zick, Assistant Attorney General