

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 15/01 (AMR 51/029/2001, 21 February 2001) -Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Texas) Dennis Thurl Dowthitt, white, aged 55

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Dennis Dowthitt was executed in Texas on 7 March 2001. He was sentenced to death in 1992 for the murder of Gracie Purnhagen. His son was sentenced to 45 years in prison for the murder of Gracie Purnhagen's younger sister, Tiffany.

In his final statement before being executed, Dennis Dowthitt sobbed as he spoke to members of the victims' family: "I am so sorry for what y'all had to go through. I can't imagine losing two children. If I was y'all, I would have killed me."

Dennis Dowthitt becomes the 700<sup>th</sup> person put to death in the USA since it resumed executions in 1977. Texas accounts for 244 of those executions. There have been 17 executions in the USA this year, five of them in Texas.

**No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**