

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 79/99 (AMR 51/104/99, 30 June 1999) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern

USA (ALABAMA) Pernell FORD, aged 34

On 8 July 1999, the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the execution of Pernell Ford, a few hours before he was due to go the electric chair. His lawyer had asked for the stay in order that Ford's competency to give up his appeals could be considered. She argued that her client's decision to consent to his execution was the result of serious mental illness, including major depression and schizophrenia (see original EXTRA). The circuit court has said that it will hear the case on 18 August.

The state appealed to the US Supreme Court to lift the stay and allow the execution to go ahead, but the Court rejected the appeal.

Pernell Ford cannot be executed until the issue of his competency to waive his appeals has been resolved, and a new execution date has been set.

No further action is requested at present. If a new date is set, the UA Network may be asked to send further appeals. Many thanks to all who sent appeals on behalf of Pernell Ford.