

**PUBLIC**

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**9 August 2004**

**Further information on UA 158/04 (AMR 51/070/2004, 28 April 2004) - Death penalty / Legal concern**

**USA (Missouri) Raymond E. Wood (m), white, aged 40**

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Raymond Wood is no longer facing the possibility of a death sentence. On 30 July, the prosecutor withdrew her notice of intent to seek the death penalty against him. She gave no reason for her decision.

Raymond Wood is charged with the murder of his wife and four children. His trial is scheduled to begin on 25 October. He has been in a state psychiatric facility since shortly after the murders in February 2000. He has a history of serious mental illness and there is compelling evidence that he was psychotic at the time of the crime. Pre-trial hearings have been scheduled for later this month on the question of whether he is competent to stand trial.

**No further action is requested. Raymond Wood's lawyer has expressed her thanks for Amnesty International's intervention in this case.**