

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 170/02 (AMR 51/093/2002, 10 June 2002) - Death penalty/Legal concern

USA (Pennsylvania) Steven A. Pannebaker, (m), white, aged 17

Steven Pannebaker, charged with the murder of his parents, Mark and Marcella Pannebaker, and his two younger sisters, Amanda (10) and Elena (13), is no longer facing the death penalty for the killings. The four were found dead in the family home in the community of Maze in Juniata County on 25 January 2002. The four had died of gunshot wounds the previous evening. Steven Pannebaker was 16 at the time of the murders.

Jury selection for Steven Pannebaker's murder trial had been due to begin on 9 December. On 21 November, he pleaded guilty but mentally ill to all four counts of first-degree murder. As a result of this plea, the death penalty was removed as a possibility, and the teenager instead received four concurrent life prison sentences without eligibility for parole.

International law, respected in almost every country of the world outside the USA, prohibits the imposition of the death penalty for people who were under 18 at the time of the crime. The imposition of life sentences without the possibility of release is also prohibited for this age group of defendant.

**No further action by the UA Network is requested. Steven Pannebaker's lawyers have sent their thanks for Amnesty International's action in this case.**