

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

Table 6.89

Methods of execution in States authorizing the death penalty

By State, 1997

Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
Arizona ^{a,b}	Alabama	Arizona ^{a,b}	Delaware ^{a,c}	Idaho ^a
Arkansas ^{a,d}	Arkansas ^{a,d}	California ^a	New Hampshire ^{a,e}	Oklahoma ^f
California ^a	Florida	Mississippi ^{a,g}	Washington ^a	Utah ^a
Colorado	Georgia	Missouri ^a		
Connecticut	Kentucky	North Carolina ^a		
Delaware ^{a,c}	Nebraska	Wyoming ^h		
Idaho ^a	Ohio ^a			
Illinois	Oklahoma ^f			
Indiana	South Carolina ^a			
Kansas	Tennessee			
Louisiana	Virginia ^a			
Maryland				
Mississippi ^{a,g}				
Missouri ^a				
Montana				
Nevada				
New Hampshire ^{a,e}				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina ^a				
Ohio ^a				
Oklahoma ^f				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
South Carolina ^a				
South Dakota				
Texas				
Utah ^a				
Virginia ^a				
Washington ^a				
Wyoming ^h				

Note: See Note, table 6.77. The method of execution of Federal prisoners is lethal injection, pursuant to 28 CFR, Part 26. For offenses under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the method is that of the State in which the conviction took place, pursuant to 18 USC 3596.

^aAuthorizes two methods of execution.

^bArizona authorizes lethal injection for persons whose capital sentence was received after Nov. 15, 1992; for those who were sentenced before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or lethal gas.

^cDelaware authorizes lethal injection for those whose capital offense occurred after June 13, 1986; for those whose offense occurred before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or hanging.

^dArkansas authorizes lethal injection for those whose capital offense occurred on or after July 4, 1983; for those whose offense occurred before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or electrocution.

^eNew Hampshire authorizes hanging only if lethal injection cannot be given.

^fOklahoma authorizes electrocution if lethal injection is ever held unconstitutional and firing squad if both lethal injection and electrocution are held unconstitutional.

^gMississippi authorizes lethal injection for those convicted after July 1, 1984 and lethal gas for those convicted prior to that date.

^hWyoming authorizes lethal gas if lethal injection is ever held unconstitutional.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Capital Punishment 1997*, Bulletin NCJ-172881 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, December 1998), p. 5, Table 3.