

Table 6.87

Methods of execution in States authorizing the death penalty

By State, 2003				
Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
Alabama ^a	Alabama ^a	Arizona ^{a,b}	Delaware ^{a,c}	Idaho ^a
Arizona ^{a,b}	Arkansas ^{a,d}	California ^a	New Hampshire ^{a,e}	Oklahoma ^{a,f}
Arkansas ^{a,d}	Florida ^a	Missouri ^a	Washington ^a	Utah ^a
California ^a	Kentucky ^{a,g}	Wyoming ^{a,h}		
Colorado	Nebraska			
Connecticut	Oklahoma ^{a,f}			
Delaware ^{a,c}	South Carolina ^a			
Florida ^a	Tennessee ^{a,i}			
Georgia	Virginia ^a			
Idaho ^a				
Illinois				
Indiana				
Kansas				
Kentucky ^{a,g}				
Louisiana				
Maryland				
Mississippi				
Missouri ^a				
Montana				
Nevada				
New Hampshire ^{a,e}				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina				
Ohio				
Oklahoma ^{a,f}				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
South Carolina ^a				
South Dakota				
Tennessee ^{a,i}				
Texas				
Utah ^a				
Virginia ^a				
Washington ^a				
Wyoming ^{a,h}				

Note: See Note, table 6.81. 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 more than one method 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.

^gKentucky authorizes lethal injection for persons whose capital sentence was received on or after Mar. 31, 1998; for those sentenced before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or electrocution.

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

ⁱTennessee authorizes lethal injection for those whose capital offense occurred after Dec. 31, 1998; for those whose offense occurred before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or electrocution.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Capital Punishment, 2003*, Bulletin NCJ 206627 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, November 2004), p. 4, Table 2.