



State of Utah

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Utah Department of Corrections Receives Death Warrant for Ralph Menzies

SALT LAKE CITY (July 14, 2025) — On July 9, 2025, 3rd District Court Judge Matthew Bates signed a death warrant in the case of the State of Utah vs. Ralph Leroy Menzies. The Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) is moving forward with plans to implement the court's order in accordance with its long-standing Departmental policy.

In accordance with Utah law, Ralph Leroy Menzies has elected to be executed by firing squad. It is anticipated that the court's order will be carried out shortly after midnight on September 5, 2025.

State statute and UDC policy outline the specific procedures to be followed for all aspects of the execution. The following information is provided to address common questions received from members of the news media and other interested parties in light of the court's action.

Witnesses

State code (77-19-11 UCA) specifies who may be present at the execution. No one will be required to witness the execution, nor will anyone attend as a matter of right. No person under the age of 18 will be permitted to attend. All witnesses will sign release forms, undergo searches, and will be ushered in and out of staging areas and witness rooms. Witnesses may include:

- The prosecuting attorney, or a designated deputy, of the county in which the offense was committed
- No more than two law enforcement officials from the county in which the offense was committed
- The state's attorney general or a designee
- Religious representatives, friends, or relatives designated by the defendant, not exceeding a total of five persons
- No more than five close relatives of the deceased victim

- Selected pool media witnesses
- No more than three correctional officials from other states that are preparing for executions, with no more than two from any one state

Protests

The Department of Corrections has specific policies in place that seek to maximize movement through the general prison environs during an execution, while also securing the facility and all those involved in the process. UDC will provide an opportunity for demonstrators to express their opinions, whether in favor of or against capital punishment, as long as they do so in a lawful manner. Additional details regarding the designated staging locations will be released as the date approaches.

Prosecution

The Department of Corrections and its allied agencies will arrest and encourage the prosecution of anyone who in any way attempts to document the death of the condemned via audio, video, or any other means. UDC will also seek to prosecute those found to be trespassing or entering the secured property without proper permission and clearance. Anyone taking part in unlawful demonstrations, unlawfully attempting to disrupt the execution, or threatening or terrorizing those involved in the execution process will likewise be subject to possible prosecution - including inmates being disruptive, assaultive, etc.

Condemned Choices

The condemned may request up to five individuals to witness the execution, including legal and religious representatives, friends, and family. UDC has discretion whether to grant the request. The condemned will be contacted by UDC officials for instructions on how to dispose of his personal property and any funds remaining in his inmate account.

Organ donation is not an option for condemned inmates.

The condemned will be offered a last meal. The request will be granted at the discretion of UDC officials. The last meal will be prepared at the prison facility by Corrections personnel. Alcohol will not be served or used in the cooking of the meal.

The condemned will have access to religious and legal representation and will be given an opportunity to offer any last words prior to execution of the death warrant.

Execution Chamber

The execution will take place at the Utah State Correctional Facility (USCF) in Salt Lake City, Utah. The facility's execution chamber was included in the original construction of the new prison, which opened in 2022. This is the second execution held in the new facility.

The chamber is a room measuring 24 feet by 38 feet and is fitted with curtains to cover the windows in the adjacent witness rooms. The windows are complete with bulletproof, reflective

glass to protect the witnesses from unintended ricochet, and to both physically and emotionally separate and protect the identities of the witnesses.

Firing Squad Logistics

UDC's Executive Director or his designee will select a five-person firing squad of POST-certified peace officers, plus two alternates and a team leader. The executioners remain anonymous and will be stationed behind a gun-ported brick wall in the execution chamber. They will be armed with .30-caliber rifles, four of which will be loaded with live rounds. The weapon carrying the blank round will be unknown to the officers.

The condemned will be secured to a chair, and a target will be placed over his heart. He will be given a chance to speak his last words. Upon being given their order, the execution team will commence fire. A physician will be on-site to certify that death has occurred.

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