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May 21 2025

S.C. SUPREME COURT

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE SUPREME COURT**

The State,

Respondent,

v.

Stephen Christopher Stanko,

Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2010-154746

The Honorable Steven H. John
Horry County
Trial Court Case No. 2005GS2602927

AFFIDAVIT OF JOEL E. ANDERSON

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, JOEL E. ANDERSON, who having first been duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen, of sound mind, and competent to give this testimony.

2. I became the Acting Director on April 28, 2025. I was appointed to serve as the Interim Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections (“Department”) on May 20, 2025, and I continue to serve in that capacity.

3. According to S.C. Code Ann. § 24-3-530, there are three statutorily approved methods of execution: electrocution, the firing squad, and lethal injection.

4. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 24-3-530(B), I am charged with certifying, under penalty of perjury, the available methods of execution upon receipt of a notice of execution from this Court.

5. On May 16, 2025, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §§ 17-25-370, -380, the Department received an Execution Notice issued by the Clerk of this Court for Stephen Christopher Stanko.

6. According to the Execution Notice for Stephen Christopher Stanko, the Department is required to “execute the judgment and sentence of death imposed on said defendant on the fourth Friday after the service . . . or receipt of this notice,” which is June 13, 2025.

7. I hereby certify that all three statutorily approved methods of execution—electrocution, the firing squad, and lethal injection—are available for carrying out Stanko’s execution.

8. I am certifying that electrocution is available because the appropriate and responsible Department staff informed me that the electric chair and system were tested on May 15, 2025, and all aspects performed as intended.

9. I am certifying that the firing squad is available because the appropriate and responsible Department staff informed me that the Department has in its possession the necessary firearms and ammunition and that members of the firing squad have completed all required training.

10. I am certifying that lethal injection is available via a single dose of pentobarbital. I have confirmed that the pentobarbital in the Department’s possession is of sufficient potency, purity, and stability to carry out an execution successfully using the Department’s lethal injection protocol. The Department provided pentobarbital to the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for testing by its Forensic Services Laboratory. SLED confirmed that its Forensic Services Laboratory is an internationally accredited forensic laboratory and that it used

widely accepted testing protocols and methodologies in this matter. SLED reported to me that experienced, qualified, and duly authorized personnel tested and confirmed the concentration of the solution provided is consistent with the vial labeling of pentobarbital, 50 milligrams per milliliter, and acknowledged the substance's concentration in terms of its purity and stability. The appropriate and responsible Department staff reported to me that, based on a review of SLED's test results, data published by National Institutes of Health, and information regarding executions by lethal injection using pentobarbital carried out by the Department, other States, and the federal government, the dosage called for by the Department's lethal injection protocol is sufficiently potent such that administration in accordance with the protocol will result in death.

11. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


Joel E. Anderson

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME
THIS 21st DAY OF May, 2025

 (SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR S.C.

COMMISSION EXPIRES: 2/9/2034

