

**[ DOJ RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8177, April 28, 1997 ]**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8177 entitled "AN ACT DESIGNATING DEATH BY LETHAL INJECTION AS THE METHOD OF CARRYING OUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 81 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 24 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7659", the undersigned, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and the Director of Corrections, hereby issues the following Rules to govern the implementation of said Act:

*SECTION 1. Objectives.* — These Rules seek to ensure the orderly and humane execution of the death penalty by lethal injection.

*SECTION 2. Definition of Terms.* — As used in these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —

- a. "Death Convict" or "Convict" shall refer to a prisoner whose death penalty imposed by a Regional Trial Court is affirmed by the Supreme Court en banc;
- b. "Lethal Injection" refers to sodium thiopentotal, pancuronium bromide, potassium chloride and such other lethal substances as may be specified by the Director of Corrections that will be administered intravenously into the body of a convict until said convict is pronounced dead;
- c. "Bureau" refers to the Bureau of Corrections;
- d. "Director" refers to the Director of the Bureau of Corrections;
- e. "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the Department of Justice;

*SECTION 3. Principles.* — The following principles shall be observed in the implementation of these Rules:

- a. There shall be no discrimination in the treatment of a death convict on account of race, color, religion, language, politics, nationality, social origin, property, birth or other status.
- b. In the execution of a death penalty, the death convict shall be spared from unnecessary anxiety or distress.
- c. The religious beliefs of the death convict shall be respected.

*SECTION 4. Prison Services.* — Subject to the availability of resources, a death convict shall enjoy the following services and privileges to encourage and enhance his self-respect and dignity:

- a. Medical and Dental;
- b. Religious, Guidance and Counseling;
- c. Exercise;
- d. Visitation; and
- e. Mail.

*SECTION 5. Confinement.* — Whenever practicable, the death convict shall be confined in an individual cell in a building that is exclusively assigned for the use of death convicts. The convict shall be provided with a bunk, a steel/wooden bed or mat, a pillow or blanket and mosquito net.

*SECTION 6. Religious Services.* — Subject to security conditions, a death convict may be visited by the priest or minister of his faith and given such available religious materials which he may require.

*SECTION 7. Exercise.* — A death convict shall be allowed to enjoy regular exercise periods under the supervision of a guard.

*SECTION 8. Meal Services.* — Meals shall, whenever practicable, be served individually to a death convict inside his cell. Mess utensils shall be made of plastic. After each meal, said utensils shall be collected and accounted.

*SECTION 9. Visitation.* — A death convict shall be allowed to be visited by his immediate family and reputable friends at regular intervals and during designated hours subject to security procedures.

*SECTION 10. List of Visitors.* — A list of persons who may visit a death convict shall be compiled and maintained by the prison authorities. The list may include the members of the convict's immediate family such as his parents, step parents, foster parents, brothers and sisters, wife or husband and children. The list may, upon the request of the convict, include his grandparents, aunts, uncles, in-laws and cousins. Other visitors may, after investigation, be included in the list if it will assist in raising the morale of the convict.

*SECTION 11. Interviews of Convicts.* — Television, radio and other interviews by media of a death convict shall not be allowed.

*SECTION 12. Handling of Inmate Mail.* — The sending and receiving of mail by a death convict shall be controlled to prevent illicit communication. Mail shall be censored in accordance with existing prison rules.

*SECTION 13. Outside Movement.* — A death convict may be allowed to leave his place of confinement only for diagnosis of a life-threatening situation or treatment of a serious ailment, if the diagnosis cannot be done or the treatment provided in the prison hospital.

*SECTION 14. Court Appearance.* — A death convict shall not be brought outside the penal institution where he is confined for appearance or attendance in any court except when the Supreme Court authorizes, upon proper application, said outside movement. A judge who requires the appearance or attendance of a death convict in any judicial proceeding shall conduct such proceeding within the premises of the penal institution where the convict is confined.