



# NEWS Memorandum

Miss. Department of Corrections \* 723 N. President St. \* Jackson, Miss. 39202 \* (601) 359-5600 \* Fax: (601) 359-5738

FOR: Members of the News Media  
FROM: Suzanne Singletary, MDOC Communications Director, (601) 359-5608  
DATE: July 2, 2010  
RE: Execution of Joseph Daniel Burns

## **July 9 Deadline to submit media witness/representative letters to MDOC**

The Mississippi Supreme Court has set execution date for Death Row inmate Joseph Daniel Burns, MDOC # 42963. Burnes is scheduled to be executed by lethal injection at 6:00 p.m. on July 21, 2010 at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) in Parchman, Miss. Burns, 42, was convicted of capital murder in Lee County in 1996 for the 1994 robbery and murder of Floyd Melvin McBride.

### **Media Witnesses: (Submit to the MDOC no later than Friday, July 9)**

News media organizations wishing to have a representative considered as a media witness for the execution must apply for reporter/s access to the media center during the day of the execution. Please submit your request in writing on company letterhead, signed by the news department manager. The letter should identify: the name of the news representative to be considered as the media witness, and other news personnel to be considered for access to the media center only. You may list all in the same letter. Additionally, please indicate in your letter if your representative works for print, radio or television. Include the following information **for each person you plan to send to MSP:**

- Name
- Date of birth
- Driver's license number (including expiration date)
- Social security number
- E-mail address

**Please indicate in your letter if you wish to have the above news personnel as well as a satellite or microwave vehicle credentialed for the execution.** On-grounds parking is limited. The media center can accommodate approximately 14 television and radio station satellite or microwave vehicles. Requests will be taken on a first received basis. Television and radio stations are limited to one (1) satellite or microwave vehicle and will be permitted three (3) support personnel (engineer, camera operator, and producer).

### **Deadline: Friday, July 9, 2010**

The deadline to have letters submitted to the MDOC Communications Division is 5:00 p.m., Friday, July 9, 2010.

### **Mail or Fax letters (on company letterhead) to:**

Suzanne Singletary  
MDOC Communications Division  
ATTN: Media Witness and Reporter Request  
723 North President Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202  
(601) 359-5738 – FAX

(More)

The media witness lottery will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, in the first floor conference room of MDOC headquarters, 723 N. President Street, Jackson, Miss. During the lottery, two representatives each of print, radio and television will be selected as media witnesses for the execution. The list of media witnesses will be published following the lottery. The Mississippi Associated Press and Mississippi Radio News Network will each be allowed one representative as a media witness for the Burns execution.

Details for media will be issued to the news organizations prior to the scheduled execution. Approved media representatives will receive credentials upon arrival at the MSP Media Center on the day of the execution. It is up to the news organization to inquire about information not received.

### **Access to MSP Media Center**

The MDOC Media Center will open at 12:00 noon on the day of each execution. All media must be credentialed to cover the scheduled execution and will be permitted to enter the media center as late as 2:00 p.m. No media will be allowed to enter the grounds after this time. All media leaving the grounds of MSP prior to the execution will not be permitted back on the grounds.

**EVERYONE IS SUBJECT TO SEARCH BEFORE ENTERING MSP.** For security purposes, two forms of identification will be required. One must be an official photo ID such as a driver's license, passport or state-issued identification card.

Approximately one hour prior to the execution, media witnesses will be escorted to a room where they will be searched prior to being transported to the witness room. No cell phones, pagers, video or audio recording devices, pocketknives or other contraband will be allowed. Media witnesses will be provided with note-taking materials prior to the execution.

No artist renderings or sketches of the execution will be allowed by any of the media witnesses. All artist renderings and sketches of the execution will be confiscated.

Reporters interested in the condemned inmate's crime, trial, appeals or his life in general are encouraged to research those issues in advance. MDOC may not be able to answer press inquiries that are not directly related to the condemned's time on death row or the execution process.

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