



South Carolina Department of Corrections

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For immediate release

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – The capital punishment sentence of Stephen Corey Bryant was carried out tonight, pursuant to the order of the S.C. Supreme Court and in accordance with state law.

The execution was performed by a three-person firing squad and began 6:02 p.m. He was pronounced dead by a physician at 6:05 p.m.

Bryant, 44, was sentenced to death for crimes committed during an eight-day Sumter County crime spree in October 2004 in which he murdered three people – Willard "T.J." Tietjen, 62; Clifton Gainey, 36; and Christopher Burgess, 35. He was sentenced to death for murdering Tietjen, whom he shot nine times, burned his face and eyes with a cigarette and wrote "catch me if you can" on the wall in the victim's blood.

Bryant's final statement was read to witnesses by his attorney and is attached.

Witnesses to the execution included:

- Three members of the Tietjen family.
- A representative from the Third Circuit Solicitor's office, which prosecuted the case.
- A representative from the Sumter County Sheriff's office.
- Bryant's attorney.
- And three members of the news media.

Bryant's specially requested meal was spicy mixed seafood stir fry over rice, fried fish over rice, two egg rolls, three stuffed shrimp, duck and soy sauce, two Zero candy bars, German chocolate cake and two Pepsis. It was served on Wednesday evening.