



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Western District of Oklahoma

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April 18, 2001

Dear Victims, Survivors, and Family Members:

This letter is to advise you of the plans that have been announced by the Department of Justice for victim participation in viewing the upcoming execution of Timothy McVeigh. There will be a limited number of persons permitted to be present at the execution site in Terre Haute, plus a remote viewing site in Oklahoma City for others.

The execution is scheduled to occur at 7:00 a.m., Central Time, on Wednesday, May 16.

Attendance at Terre Haute

The Attorney General has increased by two the number of victims who will be permitted to personally witness the execution. There will therefore be ten seats available for victims at the facility in Terre Haute. These ten persons will be selected from among those who previously indicated they wished to be considered to witness the execution and will be selected by lottery, except that no more than one person from the same family will be selected. The lottery will be structured to make the selections according to the same categories of victims as were used in allocating seats at the trials and in the proportions most closely approximating those used for the trials: families of deceased victims (7 seats), survivors with physical injuries (2 seats), and other survivors (1 seat). Victims who suffered only property damage will not be included in the lottery for the Terre Haute positions.

The ten persons selected to go to Terre Haute will be advised by this office of their selection by Friday, April 20. Thereafter, Bureau of Prisons personnel will be in touch with those persons to work out travel and other arrangements. In order to protect the privacy of those selected, there will be no public announcement from this office of the identity of the persons selected.

The right to attend the execution at Terre Haute is personal to the person selected and may not be transferred to anyone else, except that the right to attend may be transferred to another person if (1) that person is in the immediate family of the person selected, (2) that person is also a victim as shown by the database maintained by this office, and (3) notice of the transfer is given to this office not later than May 9, 2001.

If any person selected to go to Terre Haute changes their mind and decides not to attend, we are asking that they advise this office of that fact by May 9. We will then contact an alternate, also selected by lottery, in the same victim category as the original person selected and make arrangements for the alternate's attendance.

Some victims have indicated they wish to go to Terre Haute even if they are not among the ten selected to actually view the execution. The Attorney General has directed that a reserved area be established at the Terre Haute facility to accommodate those victims. Any victim desiring to pursue this option should contact this office at one of the numbers listed below by May 9, 2001. We will then get your name to the appropriate persons with the Bureau of Prisons who will provide additional information regarding the reserved area and how to access it. Persons going to Terre Haute (other than the ten selected) will be responsible for any travel or other costs. There will not be public funds available for this purpose.

Remote viewing - Oklahoma City

The Attorney General has determined that all victims and survivors not selected to go to Terre Haute will be permitted to witness the execution via closed circuit transmission in Oklahoma City.

In order to aid the Bureau of Prisons in making final preparations, we ask that all victims desiring to attend the closed circuit session advise us of that fact by returning the enclosed form to this office not later than May 1, 2001. Even if you responded in January, please reconfirm your plans now.

If you are aware of other victims (within the original database of victims maintained by this office) who have not received a copy of either this or the January letter from our office but who wish to attend the closed circuit viewing, they should contact our office by May 1 so that they can get a copy of, and respond to, this letter. **In any event, attendance at the closed circuit site will be limited to victims who are on the attendance list resulting from your responses to this letter.** Further, only persons 18 years of age or older will be permitted to attend.

Those viewing the execution at the closed circuit site will need to report to the U. S. Marshal's Air Operations Hangar, 5900 Air Cargo Road (off of S.W. 54th St., near Will Rogers Airport). **Processing will begin at 4:30 a.m. and you must arrive not later than 5:00 a.m. on May 16.** After confirmation of status, the victims will be transported by bus to the actual viewing site, expected to be at the training facility for the Federal Transfer Center, Oklahoma City. Following the execution, victims will be returned to the Air Operations Hanger.

At the viewing site in Oklahoma City (as well as Terre Haute), there will be a briefing prior to the execution to explain the procedures which will be followed and to acquaint those attending with what they may expect to see.

Further information, including specific directions to the U. S. Marshal's Air Operations Hangar, will be sent to all those who will attend the closed circuit transmission. The information

will also include detailed guidelines for what items may or may not be brought into the viewing facility. All those entering the facility will be required to show proper identification (e.g. photo identification, drivers license) during processing. The following items are permitted to be brought into the viewing facility: photo identification, car keys, religious materials (e.g. rosary, religious medallion) and necessary prescribed medications. No other items will be allowed in the facility. Video cameras, recording devices, cellular telephones, or electronic devices of any kind will be prohibited. These rules will be strictly enforced, to insure that the closed circuit viewing is not recorded or otherwise made public.

There is likely to be substantial press activity at the Air Operations Hangar and the viewing location that morning, with media representatives seeking interviews with victims. The Bureau of Prisons will make arrangements to protect the privacy of those desiring to have no contact with the press, while also permitting contact by those who wish to be interviewed.

Each person desiring to view the execution via closed circuit in Oklahoma City is responsible for his or her own transportation costs and other expenses. There are no public funds available to defray these costs.

There will be counselors and support persons at the Oklahoma City viewing site and in Terre Haute. However, in making your decision as to whether to attend, you should carefully consider the potential impact of your participation on you. It is uncertain whether Mr. McVeigh will make any statement or, if he does, what he might say. These uncertainties, as well as the nature of an execution and the circumstances surrounding it, may make attendance inappropriate for some persons.

If you have questions regarding the above information, you may contact our Victim Witness unit at 1-800-447-3683 or (405) 553-8898.

Very truly yours,

JOE HEATON
Acting U. S. Attorney (OKBomb matters)


DAHLIA LEHMAN
Victim Witness Specialist