STATE OF CALIFORNIA – DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

OFFICE OF VICTIM AND SURVIVOR RIGHTS AND SERVICES
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NOTICE OF DEATH PENALTY SENTENCE CHANGE

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Si necesita ayuda en español, llámenos al 1-877-256-6877

This notice is for every victim, survivor, or next-of-kin in a California case that resulted in a death sentence (also called capital punishment or the death penalty).

This notice is from the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services ("Victim Services"), which is the division of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) that provides notice and support to victims.

The Governor of California has announced that he intends to commute (change) every California death sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole (LWOP). The same change would be made to every death sentence. The offenders will remain in prison and are not eligible for release. Attached to this notice is a letter from Governor Newsom about his decision, and details about the action.

This may be a very painful topic and a difficult letter to receive. This notice is provided for your awareness, and you do not need to take any action in response to this notice. If you do not wish to receive further communications about this case or this person, please call 1-877-256-6877 or email victimservices@cdcr.ca.gov.

If you have questions, Victim Services is here to support you. For questions about this notice, or for support and resources, please call 1-877-256-6877 or email victimservices@cdcr.ca.gov.

If you would like to speak to a counselor, confidentially and free of charge, dial or send a text to 988, or visit 988lifeline.org, or call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). This is a service for anyone who wants support. It is also for people in crisis. *Para asistencia indivdual, gratuita y confidenciales, comunícate con la Línea 988—llama, textea, chatea 988, 988lifeline.org o* 1-800-273-8255.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Legal steps, including review by the California Supreme Court for certain cases, must be completed before the commutation can take effect. We do not know when this will be completed. Victim Services will send notices to all registered victims.

The commutation will not pardon, forgive, or minimize the crime that was committed. After commutation, the offender will remain in a California state prison under this new sentence and will not be eligible for release. The commutation will not change the conviction or restitution orders.

If you would like to share how this change of sentence impacts you, please visit gov.ca.gov/clemency or mail a letter to the Office of the Governor, Attn: Legal Affairs/Parole and Clemency, 1021 O Street, Suite 9000, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you would like this correspondence to remain confidential, please include that in your message.

If you are not registered, you may wish to register. Registration is a quick and confidential process. Registered victims can choose to receive notice about their cases, seek assistance with restitution collection, and receive information about how to enforce their rights and receive services.

RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

Si necesita ayuda en español, llámenos al 1-877-256-6877

WHAT REGISTRATION MEANS

Registering with Victim Services means that you can receive:

- Information about your rights as a victim under California law
- Access to support resources and services including restitution-related assistance
- Notifications about the custody status of the person convicted of the crime, restitution, and opportunities to participate and be heard

HOW TO REGISTER

To register, complete the Victim Services Registration Form. The form is available in English and Spanish. There is no cost to register. Submitting this form is the first step—a member of the Victim Services team will call you to complete your registration and answer any questions you have. You can submit the form in any of the following ways:

- Complete and return the enclosed form by mail— no postage required
- Scan the following QR code by pointing your phone's camera at it and tapping the link that appears
- By email (scan and attach the completed form) to: victimservices@cdcr.ca.gov

If you need assistance completing the form, have questions about the process, or want to speak with someone before registering, Victim Services is available to assist:

- Call: 1-877-256-6877 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding state holidays)
- Email: victimservices@cdcr.ca.gov

When you register, it helps to have the CDCR number for the person in your case. If you don't have it, you can look it up using the CDCR inmate locator at ciris.mt.cdcr.ca.gov. Victim Services can also help you with this.

If there are other members of your family who may benefit from this information, please share it with them.

Victim Services' records are confidential and your contact information is used only for notification and support purposes.

OTHER RESOURCES

- For information about your rights, legal guidance, and referrals to support services in your area: California Victim Resource Center: 1-800victims.org or 1-800-842-8467
- For help with crime-related expenses, including medical care, counseling, lost wages, relocation, you may qualify for assistance through the California Victim Compensation Board: victims.ca.gov or 1-800-777-9229
- For help with crime-related expenses, including medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, relocation, and more, you may qualify for assistance through the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB): victims.ca.gov or 1-800-777-9229.
- For questions about restitution the court may have ordered in your case: call Victim Services at 1-877-256-6877.

We are committed to keeping you informed and supporting you throughout this process.

Respectfully,
Mariam El-Menshawi
Chief, Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation