

# United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit

Chicago, Illinois 60604

## NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF MANDATE

DATE: May 25, 2007

TO: Laura A. Briggs  
United States District Court  
Southern District of Indiana  
Room 105  
46 E. Ohio Street  
United States Courthouse  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

# FILED

MAY 29 2007

U.S. CLERK'S OFFICE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

FROM: Clerk of the Court

RE: 07-2001  
Woods, David L. v. Buss, Edwin G.  
06 C 1859, Richard L. Young, Judge

Herewith is the mandate of this court in this appeal, along with the Bill of Costs, if any. A certified copy of the opinion/order of the court and judgment, if any, and any direction as to costs shall constitute the mandate.

No record filed

Original record on appeal consisting of:

**ENCLOSED:**

**TO BE RETURNED AT LATER DATE:**

|                          |                            |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Volumes of pleadings       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Volumes of loose pleadings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Volumes of transcripts     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Volumes of exhibits        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Volumes of depositions     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In Camera material         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____                | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Record being retained for use  
in Appeal No. \_\_\_\_\_

Copies of this notice sent to: Counsel of record

United States Marshal  
 United States Probation Office

**NOTE TO COUNSEL:**

If any physical and large documentary exhibits have been filed in the above-entitled cause, they are to be withdrawn ten days from the date of this notice. Exhibits not withdrawn during this period will be disposed of.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents on the enclosed copy of this notice.

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Received above mandate and record, if any, from the Clerk, U.S.  
Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(1071-120397)

*Theresa M. Amato*  
Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court  
Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court

# United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit

Chicago, Illinois 60604

JUDGMENT- WITHOUT ORAL ARGUMENT

CERTIFIED COPY

Date: May 3, 2007

**FILED**

MAY 29 2007

U.S. CLERK'S OFFICE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

**BEFORE:** Honorable WILLIAM J. BAUER, Circuit Judge  
Honorable MICHAEL S. KANNE, Circuit Judge  
Honorable TERENCE T. EVANS, Circuit Judge

No. 07-2001

NORMAN TIMBERLAKE,  
Plaintiff

v.

EDWIN G. BUSS, Superintendent,  
Defendant - Appellee

APPEAL OF: DAVID L. WOODS,  
Intervenor Plaintiff

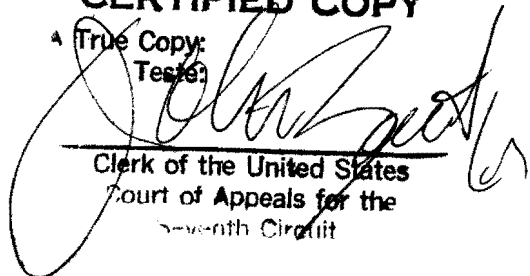
Appeal from the United States District Court for the  
Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division  
No. 06 C 1859, Richard L. Young, Judge

The district court's decision denying Woods' motion for preliminary injunction is AFFIRMED. Woods' application for a Stay of Execution is DENIED. The above is in accordance with the decision of this court entered on this date.

(1060-110393)

CERTIFIED COPY

A True Copy:  
Teste:

  
Clerk of the United States  
Court of Appeals for the  
Seventh Circuit

**NONPRECEDENTIAL DISPOSITION**

To be cited only in accordance with  
Fed. R. App. P. 32.1

CERTIFIED COPY

# United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Submitted May 3, 2007  
Decided May 3, 2007

**Before**

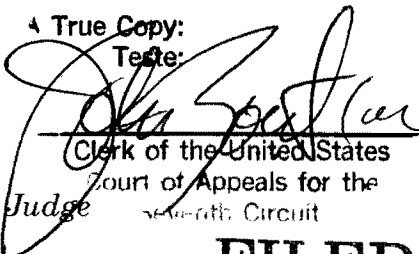
Hon. WILLIAM J. BAUER, *Circuit Judge*

Hon. MICHAEL S. KANNE, *Circuit Judge*

Hon. TERENCE T. EVANS, *Circuit Judge*

CERTIFIED COPY

True Copy:  
Teste:



Clerk of the United States  
Court of Appeals for the  
Seventh Circuit

**FILED**

MAY 29 2007

No. 07-2001

DAVID L. WOODS,  
*Intervener Plaintiff-Appellant,*

*v.*

ED BUSS, Superintendent,  
*Defendant-Appellee.*

U.S. CLERK'S OFFICE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
Appeal from the United States  
District Court for the  
Southern District of Indiana,  
Indianapolis Division.

No. 06 C 1859

**Richard L. Young**, *Judge.*

## ORDER

David Woods is scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on May 4, 2007 at 12:01 A.M. by the State of Indiana. He challenges Indiana's method of lethal injection. The district court denied Woods' motion for a preliminary injunction and denied him a stay of execution. We affirm the district court's decision denying Woods' motion for preliminary injunction. We deny his request for a stay of execution.

### I. HISTORY

On April 7, 1984, David Woods stabbed to death a 77 year-old man in order to steal \$130 in cash and a television that Woods later resold for \$20. *Woods v. McBride*, 430 F.3d 813, 815-16 (7th Cir. 2005). Woods was convicted of murder and

robbery and was sentenced to death. *Id.* at 816. His case proceeded through direct and post-conviction review in the Indiana state courts and habeas review through the federal courts. *Woods v. McBride*, 430 F.3d 813 (7th Cir. 2005), *cert. denied*, 127 S. Ct. 391 (2006). Yesterday, we denied Woods' request for a Certificate of Appealability for a second habeas petition and refused his request for a Stay of Execution. *Woods v. Buss*, 07-1951 (7th Cir. May 2, 2007).

On March 5, 2007, Woods sought leave to intervene in a preexisting lawsuit challenging Indiana's lethal injection method. *Timberlake v. Buss*, 06-CV-1859 (S.D. Ind). Woods was granted leave to intervene on April 10, 2007, filed a statement of claims on April 17, 2007 and filed a motion for a preliminary injunction and stay of execution on April 18, 2007. On May 1, 2007, the district court denied Woods' motion for preliminary injunction and request for a stay of execution.

## II. ANALYSIS

"We review the denial of a preliminary injunction for an abuse of discretion." *Autotech Tech. Ltd. Partnership v. Automationdirect.com*, 471 F.3d 745, 748 (7th Cir. 2006) (citing *Goodman v. Ill. Dep't of Fin. & Prof'l Regulation*, 430 F.3d 432, 437 (7th Cir. 2005)). In reviewing the district court's decision, "we examine legal conclusions de novo [and] finding of facts for clear error." *Joelner v. Village of Washington Park, Illinois*, 378 F.3d 613, 619-20 (7th Cir. 2004). "To prevail on a motion for a preliminary injunction, the moving party must demonstrate (1) a likelihood of success on the merits; (2) a lack of an adequate remedy at law; and (3) an irreparable harm will result if the injunction is not granted. *FoodComm Intern v. Berry*, 328 F.3d 300, 303 (7th Cir. 2003) (citations omitted). If the moving party meets the first three requirements, then the district court balances the relative harms that could be caused to either party. *Incredible Tech., Inc. v. Virtual Tech., Inc.*, 400 F.3d 1007, 1011 (7th Cir. 2005)).

The district court rejected Woods' claims on two grounds. First, it held that Woods had failed to demonstrate that Indiana's lethal injection method violates the Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Second, the district court held that the last minute nature of Woods' claims strongly counseled against granting him relief.

The Supreme Court has recognized that the prisoner may challenge the means of his execution pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to determine whether the method complies with constitutional requirements. *Nelson v. Campbell*, 541 U.S. 637, 644 (2004). "The unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain constitutes cruel and unusual punishment forbidden by the Eighth Amendment." *Hope v. Pelzer*, 536 U.S. 730, 737 (2002) (quotations and citations omitted). To succeed on an Eighth Amendment claim, the plaintiff must demonstrate both that there is an objectively

serious deprivation and the deprivation was done with deliberate indifference. *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 834 (1994).

In its May 1, 2007 decision, the district court determined that the individuals responsible for Woods' execution are sufficiently trained and experienced and are governed by appropriate procedures to insure that there is not a "significant" or "unnecessary risk that Woods will suffer unnecessary pain during the execution process." Dist. Ct. May 1, 2007 Op. at pg. 3. The district court also concluded that "Woods' allegations concerning deficiencies in the execution protocol are simply off base." *Id.* at pg. 9. Finally, the district court determined that Woods could not demonstrate either a deprivation of his constitutional right to be free from "unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain," nor deliberate indifference by the defendants. *Id.* at pgs. 9-10.

We hold that the district court did not abuse its discretion in deciding that the execution of Woods pursuant to Indiana's lethal injection method does not violate Woods' constitutional rights. The district court properly considered the applicable law governing the Eighth Amendment and properly applied it to Indiana's lethal injection method. We adopt the reasoning of the district court's decision of May 1, 2007 as our own.

We are also particularly mindful of the fact that Woods is pursuing this additional "eleventh hour" attempt to delay his execution. "A court may consider the last-minute nature of an application to stay execution in deciding whether to grant relief. ... [T]here is a strong equitable presumption against the grant of a stay where a claim could have been brought at such a time as to allow consideration of the merits without requiring entry of a stay." *Nelson v. Campbell*, 541 U.S. 637, 649 (2004).

### III. CONCLUSION

The district court's decision denying Woods' motion for preliminary injunction is **AFFIRMED**. Woods' application for a Stay of Execution is **DENIED**.