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November 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Expeditious Enforcement of Capital Sentences and the Pursuit of Justice for Victims of Heinous Crimes

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby direct:

Section 1. Background. A prolonged delay in carrying out a death sentence is a grave offense to the justice system that denies a victim's family the closure they deserve. Yet capital sentences imposed upon the most vile criminals are too often frustrated by years, or even decades, of litigation. The Department of Justice must take every step to ensure that those who commit the most heinous crimes promptly face the full consequences of their actions.

Sec. 2. Pursuing Capital Punishment for Heinous Federal Crimes. The Attorney General, when appropriate and consistent with applicable law, shall pursue Federal jurisdiction and seek the death penalty for particularly heinous and egregious Federal capital crimes, in addition to those identified in section 3(b) of Executive Order 14164 of January 20, 2025 (Restoring the Death Penalty and Protecting Public Safety), to include:

(a) murder in the first degree of a minor;

(b) murder committed in the course of rape, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of a child, or sex trafficking; and

(c) murder committed in the course of kidnapping or human trafficking.

Sec. 3. Expediting the Enforcement of Capital Sentences. The Attorney General shall take all lawful and appropriate measures to ensure that federally imposed sentences of death are

carried out as expeditiously as possible. These measures shall include:

(a) prioritizing the prompt resolution of direct appeals, petitions for writs of habeas corpus, and other post-conviction proceedings;

(b) opposing dilatory litigation tactics;

(c) seeking expedited judicial consideration wherever appropriate; and

(d) eliminating unnecessary administrative delays.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The costs for publication of this memorandum shall be borne by the Department of Justice.

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