



**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
STATE PENITENTIARY**

P.O. Box 5911
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5911
Phone: (605) 367-5051
Fax: (605) 367-5038

November 2, 2018

Ms. Angelia Gries
Minnehaha County Clerk of Courts
425 North Dakota Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Re: Certificate of Execution for Rodney Scott Berget

Dear Ms. Gries:

On October 29, 2018, Rodney Berget was executed in accordance with the Judgment and Conviction of Sentence and Warrant of Execution issued by the Honorable Bradley Zell.

Pursuant to SDCL §23A-27A-40.1, the warden shall prepare and sign a certificate of execution setting forth the date, time, place, and manner of the execution, and that also states the defendant was executed in conformity to the judgment of the court and the provisions of Chapter 23A-27A. In addition, the Certificate of Execution document shall be signed by each of the witnesses of the execution attending as allowed in SDCL § 23A-27A-34 and SDCL § 23A-27A-34.2. The warden shall cause the certificate of execution to be filed in the office of the clerk of the sentencing court within ten days after the execution.

Therefore, pursuant to the dictates of state law, enclosed please find the original Certificate of Execution consisting of a total of five (5) pages. A preliminary autopsy report is included with this filing. Also, in accordance with SDCL § 23A-27A-40.1, a certified copy of the Certificate of Death for Rodney Berget, final autopsy report and final post-mortem examination report will be forwarded to your office for filing within 10 days of my receipt of those documents.

Sincerely yours,

Darin Young
Director of Prison Operations
Warden
South Dakota State Penitentiary

Sanford Health Pathology Clinic
P.O. Box 5039
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5039
(800) 424-0564 (605) 333-1720

Patient Name: **Berget, Rodney**
DOB: 5/15/1962

18X00288M

Specimens

A Body

PROVISIONAL DIAGNOSIS

- I. No anatomic cause of death
 - A. Judicial lethal injection
 - B. No trauma

- II. Pending toxicology

CAUSE OF DEATH: Pending

MANNER OF DEATH: Pending

This information is strictly preliminary and intended only for use in assisting the coroner and law enforcement in their duties. The final autopsy report is the sole document of authority in this examination and will supersede any information contained in this preliminary communication.

Preliminary result electronically signed by Snell, Kenneth S, MD on 10/30/2018 at 1526

Autopsy - SF (Preliminary result)

18X00288M

Authorizing Provider:	Snell, Kenneth S, MD	Ordering Provider:
Pathologist:	Snell, Kenneth S, MD	

Autopsy (Preliminary result)

Collected:	10/30/2018 1300	Received:	10/30/2018 0803
Verified On:	10/30/2018 1526		

Pending Tests

Lab Only - Coroners Log

Resulting Labs

SHPC

SANFORD HEALTH PATHOLOGY CLINIC, 1305 West 605-333-1720
18th Street, Sioux Falls SD 57117-5134

CC Recipients

Snell, Kenneth S, MD

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



South Dakota State Penitentiary Certificate of Execution

TO THE HONORABLE Angelia Gries, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Minnehaha County, South Dakota, to the citizens of Minnehaha County and to the citizens of the State of South Dakota, know that:

Rodney Berget appeared before the Circuit Court for the Second Judicial Circuit, Minnehaha County, the Honorable Bradley Zell, Circuit Court Judge, on November 17, 2011, and pled guilty to the crime of First Degree Murder, a Class A Felony, in violation of SDCL § 22-16-4, in connection with the death of Ronald Johnson. A sentencing hearing was thereafter commenced on January 30, 2012, before Judge Zell. At the conclusion of that hearing, on February 6, 2012, the sentencing court, Judge Zell presiding, found beyond a reasonable doubt that a number of aggravating circumstances under SDCL § 23A-27A-1 occurred during the commission of this murder sufficient to warrant the punishment of death by lethal injection, and the court imposed a sentence of death on February 6, 2012. The Amended Judgment of Conviction and Sentence was entered on June 24, 2013.

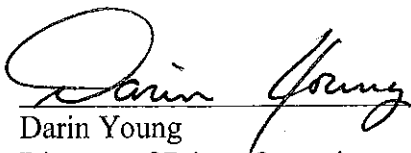
On August 7th, 2018, the Honorable Bradley Zell issued a Warrant of Execution, pursuant to SDCL §§ 23A-27A-31 and 23A-27A-15, setting the week of October 28, 2018 through November 3, 2018 as the week during which the execution of Rodney Berget will take place.

On October 29, 2018, at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Rodney Berget was summoned to answer for his crimes.

Shortly thereafter, Rodney Berget, in accordance with SDCL 23A-27A, and in compliance with the Judgment of Conviction of Sentence of the Circuit Court for Minnehaha County and the Warrant of Execution, was given lethal injections sufficient to end his life. Rodney Berget was pronounced dead at 7:37 p.m.

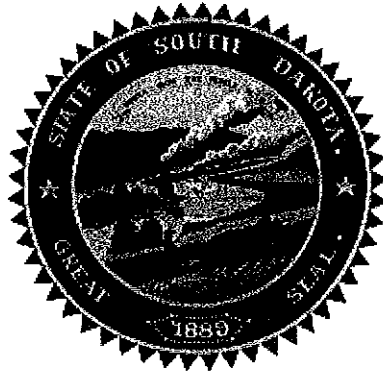
This Certificate of Execution, bearing the signatures of the persons who witnessed the execution, consisting of five (5) pages of which four (4) pages are attached hereto, have been compiled and completed for the purpose of filing the same with the Minnehaha County Clerk of Courts pursuant to SDCL § 23A-27A-40.1.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2018



Darin Young
Director of Prison Operations
Warden, South Dakota State Penitentiary

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



South Dakota State Penitentiary
CERTIFICATE OF EXECUTION

Each of the undersigned, by his or her signature below, confirms that he or she was present and witnessed the last words of and pronouncement of death upon Rodney Berget following the administration of drugs as required by state law, and that the sentence of death by lethal injection was inflicted on Rodney Berget on October 29, 2018 at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

This document is signed inside the Penitentiary immediately following the execution of sentence.

1. Sign:

Robert Kuempel

Print:

Robert Kuempel

2. Sign:

Danielle B. Ferguson

Print:

Danielle B. Ferguson

3. Sign:

Dary I Slykhuis

Print:

Dary I Slykhuis

4. Sign:

Print:

5. Sign:

Tom Linneweber

Print:

TOM LINNEWEBER

6. Sign:

Print:

7. Sign:

Donald A. Jorgensen

Print:

Donald A. Jorgensen

8. Sign:

Print:

9. Sign:

David S. Kolpack

Print:

David S. Kolpack

10. Sign:

Print:

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



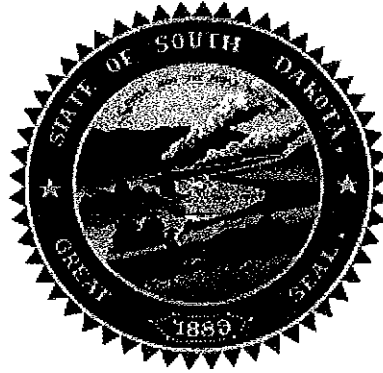
South Dakota State Penitentiary
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This document is signed inside the Penitentiary immediately following the execution of sentence.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Sign: <u>Sister Patrick L. Murphy</u> | 2. Sign: <u>Eric Schulte</u> |
| Print: <u>Sister Patrick L. Murphy</u> | Print: <u>Eric Schulte</u> |
| 3. Sign: <u>Kerry Jade Stapley</u> | 4. Sign: <u>James Oliver Stapley</u> |
| Print: <u>Kerry Jade Stapley</u> | Print: <u>JAMES OLIVER STAPLEY</u> |
| 5. Sign: <u>Gary J. Ternes</u> | 6. Sign: _____ |
| Print: <u>GARY J. TERNES</u> | Print: _____ |
| 7. Sign: _____ | 8. Sign: _____ |
| Print: _____ | Print: _____ |
| 9. Sign: _____ | 10. Sign: _____ |
| Print: _____ | Print: _____ |

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



South Dakota State Penitentiary
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This document is signed inside the Penitentiary immediately following the execution of sentence.

1. Sign: [Signature]
Print: Jennifer Johnson

2. Sign: [Signature]
Print: Jesse Johnson

3. Sign: Toni Schaefer
Print: Toni Schaefer

4. Sign: _____
Print: _____

5. Sign: [Signature]
Print: Mrs Ronald Johnson

6. Sign: _____
Print: _____

7. Sign: Drake Schaefer
Print: Drake Schaefer

8. Sign: _____
Print: _____

9. Sign: [Signature]
Print: Derrick Schaefer

10. Sign: _____
Print: _____

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South Dakota State Penitentiary
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This document is signed inside the Penitentiary immediately following the execution of sentence.

1. Sign: *Michael Milstead*
Print: Michael Milstead

2. Sign: *Bradley G. Zell*
Print: Bradley G. Zell

3. Sign: *Jason K. Piercy*
Print: Jason K. Piercy

4. Sign: *Aaron McGowan*
Print: Aaron McGowan

5. Sign: *Paul Swedlund*
Print: PAUL SWEDLUND

6. Sign: *Tannis H. Venhuizen*
Print: Tannis H. Venhuizen

7. Sign: *Bridal Zeeb*
Print: Bridal Zeeb

8. Sign: _____
Print: _____

9. Sign: *Mary J. Sackley*
Print: Mary J. Sackley

10. Sign: _____
Print: _____