

# Top U.S. court signals halt to executions

The U.S. Supreme Court looks set to prevent any executions from taking place while it considers the legality of the lethal-injection method. Critics claim recent botched executions caused unnecessary suffering and violated a constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment

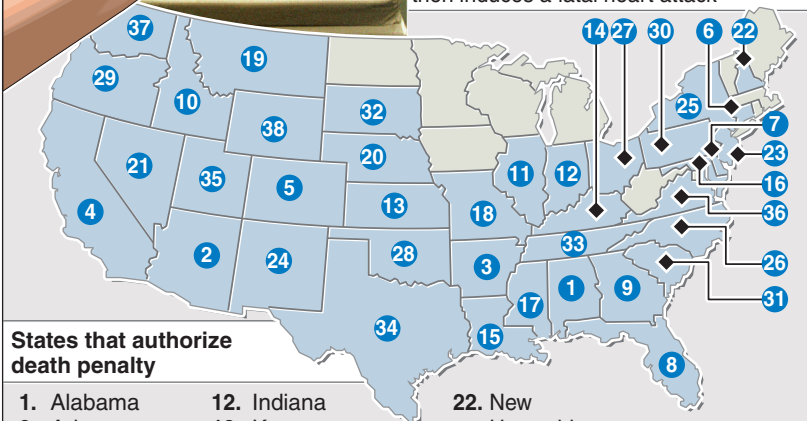
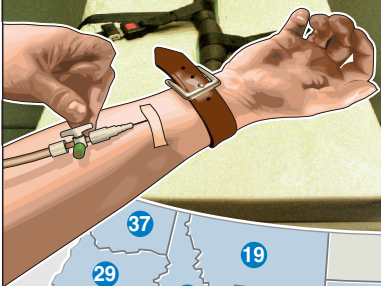
## Executions since death penalty reinstated in 1976

Lethal injection	929	Hanging	3
Electrocution	154	Firing squad	2
Gas chamber	11	Total	1,099

■ **Lethal injection:** Inmate secured with ankle and wrist restraints to table

■ Saline drips inserted into each arm

■ Inmates are first injected with **sodium pentothal**, an anaesthetic, followed by **pancuronium bromide**, which causes lungs to shut down and paralyzes body. The final chemical, **potassium chloride**, then induces a fatal heart attack



## States that authorize death penalty

- |                |                                   |  |                    |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1. Alabama     | 12. Indiana                       | 22. New Hampshire  | 29. Oregon         |
| 2. Arizona     | 13. Kansas                        | 23. New Jersey   | 30. Pennsylvania   |
| 3. Arkansas    | 14. Kentucky                      | 24. New Mexico   | 31. South Carolina |
| 4. California  | 15. Louisiana                     | 25. New York – execution declared unconstitutional in 2004 | 32. South Dakota   |
| 5. Colorado    | 16. Maryland                      | 26. North Carolina   | 33. Tennessee      |
| 6. Connecticut | 17. Mississippi                   | 27. Ohio   | 34. Texas          |
| 7. Delaware    | 18. Missouri                      | 28. Oklahoma   | 35. Utah           |
| 8. Florida     | 19. Montana                       |  | 36. Virginia       |
| 9. Georgia     | 20. Nebraska – electrocution only |  | 37. Washington     |
| 10. Idaho      | 21. Nevada                        |  | 38. Wyoming        |
| 11. Illinois   |                                   |  |                    |