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DECLARATION OF RANDY SPIVEY

I, Randy Spivey, hereby DECLARE:

1. My name is Randy Spivey. I am one of Christa Pike's attorneys at the Tennessee Office of the Post-Conviction Defender (OPCD).
2. I served as Christa's attorney-witness during the attempted execution on Wednesday, September 30, 2026.
3. That morning, I arrived at the prison at approximately 6:00 AM.
4. I was escorted back to the Death Watch Area, where I met with Christa for approximately 2 hours.
5. At around 8:15 or 8:30 AM, I was escorted out of the Death Watch Area to allow the execution team to prepare. Shortly after that, we learned that Christa had received a stay of execution from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.
6. For the next 9 to 10 hours, we waited in the Death Watch Area. During this time, I saw Christa drink a Powerade, a Mountain Dew, and a Pepsi. She also ate a lunch of potato wedges, pinwheel sandwiches, and a cookie that Warden Nelsen brought to her.
7. Around 12 or 1 PM, Christa returned to her cell in order to rest. Her spiritual advisor and I waited in the Death Watch Area visitation room.
8. Around 4 PM, Christa requested that we come back and sit outside her cell, which we did.
9. Around 6 PM, we learned that the U.S. Supreme Court had vacated the Sixth Circuit's stay of execution and that the execution would go forward.
10. At 6:21 PM, I stood in the back of the Death Watch Area as a squad of TDOC officers lined up to extract Christa.
11. Christa's hands were restrained through the cell door. She was then told to get on her knees on her bunk and place her forehead against the wall. Christa complied quietly.
12. Christa was then removed from the cell and lifted onto the gurney.
13. She was strapped down—starting with the restraints on her upper body.
14. At 6:27 PM, once Christa's upper body was secured to the gurney, the corrections officers wheeled her into the Execution Chamber.
15. Once in the Execution Chamber, the strapping continued.
16. At 6:30 PM, arm extensions were attached to the gurney, and Christa's arms were secured to them.

Courtesy of Death Penalty Education Project

17. During the strap-down process, Christa maintained eye contact with her spiritual advisor, Rev. Mikey Noechel. Christa was smiling, crying, and singing with Mikey about loving kindness (a Buddhist spiritual practice) and about people being gentle with themselves.
18. At 6:33 PM, a member of execution team checked the restraints. Four individuals entered the Execution Chamber—at least three of whom appeared to be members of TDOC's IV Team.
19. At 6:34 PM, one of the IV Team members (hereinafter "IV Team Member 1") held what appeared to be a vein-finder device over Christa's right arm.
20. IV Team Member 1 shook his[1] head and poked Christa's arm with his finger. He seemed to be struggling to locate a vein.
21. At this point, one of the other IV Team members (hereinafter "IV Team Member 2") whispered something to the fourth individual like "you should help." But I could not clearly hear the exchange. The Warden shook his head at the fourth individual and the fourth individual said something to the IV Team member.
22. At 6:35 PM, Christa began instructing the IV Team members about where they could find a vein. She asked IV Team Member 1 to pull her sleeve up higher to look for a vein in her upper arm.
23. Christa was unfailingly polite and kind during this process.
24. At 6:36 PM, IV Team Member 1 shook his head again at the other IV Team members. He appeared unable to locate a vein.
25. At 6:37 PM, IV Team Member 2 took IV Member 1's place at Christa's side and began trying to place a line.
26. Christa, meanwhile, continued to help the IV Team locate a vein. When IV Team Member 2 began attempting to place a line in her upper right arm she said, "thank you for listening to me."
27. IV Team Member 2 called for a 22-gauge needle.
28. He then began holding a wand-like device, covering Christa's right arm with gel, which was connected to a tablet device.
29. At 6:40 PM, IV Team Member 2 appeared to set a line in Christa's right arm—above the crook of her elbow. Christa asked, "Did you get it?" and IV Team Member 2 responded, "Yes." Christa replied, "I love you."

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[1] The pronouns "he/him" are used for all execution participants in this declaration in recognition of the State's asserted interest in protecting execution participants' identities. The use of these pronouns should not be taken to mean that the execution participants were male, rather than female; nor should it be taken as a concession of the legitimacy of the State's purported interest in shielding all information that could potentially be used to identify the execution participants.

30. At 6:43 PM, Christa turned to the third IV Team member (hereinafter "IV Team Member 3") who had begun poking Christa's left arm with his finger. Christa encouraged him to look higher up on her arm and down by her wrists.
31. IV Team Member 2 came over to Christa's left side with the wand and tablet device.
32. Christa began telling her spiritual advisor, Mikey, that he is beautiful and that she was so grateful for him.
33. At 6:46 PM, IV Team Member 3 seemed to be unable to find a suitable vein on Christa's left side.
34. IV Team Member 2 came over with the wand and tablet device and asked for a 22-gauge blue needle.
35. At 6:49 PM, IV Member 2 asked for another needle—a 20- or 22-gauge.
36. Christa was wincing and grimacing as IV Team Member 2 moved the needle around in Christa's arm. At this point, IV Team Member 2 said something like "not enough capillary."
37. At 6:50 PM, IV Team Member 2 was still using the wand and tablet device and shaking his head. He asked for another blue needle.
38. By 6:53 PM, IV Team Member 2 had been moving the needle for a long time, but seemed unsure if he got it in. He expressed that he thought that the vein might be blown.
39. At 6:54 PM, IV Team Member 2 asked for a 20-gauge needle, and the fourth individual, who was standing nearby, seemed to whisper instructions. IV Team Member 2 said "it's not long enough, what is the longest you've got." He discarded the 20-gauge needle.
40. At 6:56 PM, IV Team Member 2 inserted another needle, which he seemed to get in. He started taping down the IV line. Christa was visibly relieved.
41. At 6:57 PM, IV Team Member 2 said that it "might be blowing." IV Team Member 2 and IV Team Member 3 inspected the insertion site and poked it. Both said that they "can't tell." One of them said something like "it's either blood or blown, I need to know."
42. They then pulled up Christa's left sleeve. IV Team Member 2 said "well, she's got one [vein] right there." Christa said politely "that's what I have been trying to tell you."
43. IV Team Member 3 then inserted another needle into Christa's upper left arm. Both IV Team Members 1 and 2 seemed to agree that they had established a line.

Courtesy of Dead Podcast by Beth Bronson

44. At 6:59 PM, they determined that the line was not, in fact, properly established. IV Team Member 2 said "I need to work again," and he pulled the needle out of Christa's left arm. It appeared to be severely bent.
45. At 7:02 PM, IV Team Member 2 tried inserting another needle higher on Christa's left shoulder. Christa grimaced.
46. At 7:05 PM, IV Team Member 2 asked for a 24-gauge needle and moved that needle around a lot. Christa continued to grimace.
47. The needle appeared to stay in place and IV Team Member 3 raised one finger up to the window to the Lethal Injection Room.
48. At 7:07 PM, as the line on Christa's left side was being taped down, IV Team Member 3 said, "I think it is blown." IV Team Members 2 and 3 then examined the insertion site. One of them held up additional fingers to the window.
49. At 7:08 PM, IV Team Member 2 said "let's regroup." He then washed Christa's left arm with a saline syringe and began scrutinizing it.
50. At 7:09 PM, IV Team Member 1 began checking Christa's right arm again, and poked around the insertion site.
51. At 7:12 PM, IV Team Member 2—who was still on Christa's left side—said, "give me one of my needles from the drawer." A TDOC officer who had been handing needles, gauze, and saline to the IV Team members from a little medical cart, looked in a drawer of the cart and pulled out a needle.
52. At 7:13 PM, one of the IV Team members held up a single finger to the Lethal Injection Room window. IV Team Member 2 told Christa that they "have it."
53. In total, the IV Team appeared to use approximately 10 needles.
54. The used needles were disposed into a plastic bucket that did not "clink" when the needles hit it.
55. At 7:15 PM, the line in Christa's left arm was taped down.
56. The Warden then received a call and pointed to Christa's left arm. IV Team Member 3 proceeded to check Christa's left arm again.
57. At 7:17 PM, the IV Team Members taped Christa's hands down over my objection. The Warden expressed that a particular practice does not need to be in the execution protocol in order for TDOC to do it.
58. The IV Team Members then attached EKG leads to Christa's body.
59. IV Team Member 3 held up one finger to the window and stared at the phone on the wall of the Execution Chamber until it rang once.
60. At 7:18 PM, the Warden asked IV Team Member 3 to check Christa's left arm again after speaking on the phone. IV Team Member 3 said "it's soft."

61. At 7:19 PM, there were more phone calls into the Execution Chamber. It seemed like the people behind the window in the Lethal Injection Room were asking the IV Team for repeated checks of Christa's left arm.
62. IV Team Member 3 maneuvered the left IV-line and the Warden said into the phone, "it's just positional, they taped it too tight." IV Team Member 3 then cleaned Christa's left arm with saline solution again and checked the IV site.
63. At 7:23 PM, one of the IV Team members held up a single finger to the window again. They pushed saline through the line with difficulty. IV Team Member 2 said that the saline syringe "is the last one."
64. At 7:24 PM, the IV Team seemed satisfied that the lines were set and exited the chamber.
65. The TDOC officer who had been handing the IV Team needles from the medical cart covered Christa with a blanket. The blanket covered Christa's hands, but not the IV sites.
66. At 7:25 PM, I was escorted out of the Execution Chamber to the Official Witness Room, where the media was located.
67. At 7:26 PM, the curtain covering the Official Witness Room's window into the Execution Chamber was opened.
68. At 7:27 PM, the Warden asked Christa for a last statement. It was hard to hear, but Christa seemed to say: "I just want to say I'm leaving this world the way I have spent most my life, which is in love. In love with the people who are supporting me, but also with those who hate me. I encourage them to look into the things that brought me out of deep despair and pain. I'm at peace and ready to go."
69. At 7:28 PM, Rev. Mikey Noechel said something to Christa and Christa repeated his words.
70. At 7:29 PM, Christa began sighing a lot.
71. At 7:33 PM, she lifted her head to look at the IV sites.
72. At 7:34 PM, Christa said, "I feel like my arm is about to bust. It burns." She said that the one spot on her arm is "really burning." She said that it hurt.
73. At 7:36 PM, Christa was still talking to Mikey and smiling reassuringly at him. She was breathing deeply.
74. At 7:38 PM, Christa looked at the IV sites again.
75. Christa sang, moved her feet a bit, and laughed at something Mikey said. She then lifted her head and seemed confused as to why the process was taking so long.
76. At 7:40 PM, Christa was still singing with Mikey.

Courtesy of Death Penalty Project by Beth Schwartzapfel

77. At 7:41 PM, someone placed a white rock in the port between the Execution Chamber and Lethal Injection Room. Christa was taking deep breaths.
78. At 7:42 PM, Christa's chest was rising and falling quickly.
79. At 7:43 PM, Christa yawned, but was still talking to Mikey—laughing and smiling.
80. At 7:44 PM, Christa's breathing was obviously labored.
81. At 7:45 PM, Christa yawned again.
82. At 7:46 PM, Christa began making an agitated snoring sound. TDOC closed the curtain and my view of Christa was cut off. But I could still hear her snoring.
83. At 7:50 PM, Mikey was escorted into the Official Witness Room. Shortly thereafter, he was asked to return to the Execution Chamber.
84. I could still hear Christa snoring and struggling to breathe.
85. The curtain reopened, and I saw that the white rock had been taken away.
86. At 7:53 PM, Christa's snoring continued and Mikey resumed singing to her.
87. At 7:54 PM, Christa lifted her head, strained, groaned, snored, and seemed to be struggling. She tried to rise up against the restraints and fell back.
88. At 7:56 PM, Christa's snoring began to sound more like choking—like someone with sleep apnea. Her head was still moving.
89. At 8:00 PM, Christa flinched and continued to make snoring/choking sounds.
90. At 8:01 PM, a white rock appeared again in the port window. The Warden left the Execution Chamber and returned about a minute later.
91. At 8:03 PM, I noticed that Christa's right arm seemed to be purple below the elbow. It's possible that her arm had turned purple before then.
92. At 8:05 PM, Christa's snoring/choking seemed to get louder. She made rhythmic gasping sounds, with her stomach moving up and down. She seemed to be struggling to breathe.
93. At this point, TDOC closed the curtains again. We could still hear Christa snoring/choking. The media room was dark and several media witnesses began complaining about not being able to see what time it was or take notes.
94. A journalist (possibly Stephen Hale) asked TDOC's Communications Director, Dorinda Carter, why TDOC kept closing the curtains when it seemed like Christa was still alive.
95. At 8:06 PM, Mikey was brought back to the Official Witness Room and whispered to me, "she's still alive."
96. At 8:15 PM, Christa was still making snoring/choking sounds. The curtains remained closed, with the lights in the Official Witness Room off. At this point, I told the Warden's secretary, Lindy Garner, that TDOC is not

authorized to do a third push of pentobarbital under the protocol and that they needed to stop the execution. Lindy didn't know what was happening. I asked for a phone.

97. TDOC had informed me that I would not be allowed to use the wall phone in the Official Witness Room, which I had used earlier that day to call my colleagues. A large man (presumably a TDOC employee) was standing in front of that phone while the media witnesses were in the room.

98. Instead, TDOC informed me that I could access a different phone during the execution, near the Death Watch Area.

99. Rather than escort me directly to that phone using the shortest available path—by going out the door between the Official Witness Room and Execution Chamber—I was taken there by a long, circuitous route. My escort and I went out the door connecting the Official Witness Room to the Death Watch Lobby, then to Contact Visitation Room, then to the Death Watch Area, then the Execution Chamber Sallyport, and then, finally, to the room with the phone.

100. The trip took approximately seven minutes.

101. There were approximately five locked doors along the route that had to be opened remotely before we could proceed, and there was a delay in opening some of these doors.

102. The annotated attached diagram of TDOC's execution facility, from the 2018 Lethal Injection Protocol, illustrates the route that I was taken to the phone room (in red).

103. At 8:22 PM, I called my co-counsel, Stephen Ferrell and Kelly Gleason, and told them what was happening. I asked them to stop the execution before TDOC attempted to give Christa a third dose of pentobarbital.

104. At 8:25 PM, I returned to the Official Witness Room. I could hear Christa still snoring/choking. I told the Deputy Attorney General witness, Leslie Price, that the 2025 Protocol does not call for a third push of pentobarbital and TDOC is not authorized to attempt one. I stated that TDOC needed to provide Christa with immediate medical care.

105. For approximately the next 20 minutes, I listened as Christa continued to make snoring/choking sounds. During this time, I did not hear any sounds from the Execution Chamber that would indicate medical care was being rendered.

106. At 8:50 PM, I was informed that an ambulance was on its way.

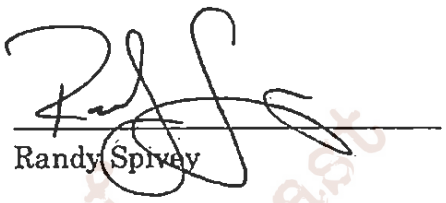
107. At 9:10 PM, I was told that medical staff were performing life-saving measures and that Christa was being given oxygen.

Courtesy Of Tennessee Office of the Post-Conviction Defender by Beth Draven

108. After the curtain closed for the second time at 8:05 PM, it never reopened. From 8:06 PM to when Christa was eventually taken out of the facility by ambulance, she did not have any member of her defense team or her spiritual advisor with her.

I declare under penalty of perjury and the laws of the United States and the State of Tennessee that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated this 15th day of October, 2026.



Randy Spivey

Courtesy of Time of Death Podcast by Beth Braden