

## *Information Regarding Media Coverage of the **Benjamin Robert Cole** Execution Scheduled for 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015*

OKLAHOMA CITY – Media interested in covering the execution of **Benjamin Cole** at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015 at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary (OSP) in McAlester must email Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC) Public Information Officer Alex Gerszewski no later than **3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5** at [alex.gerszewski@doc.ok.gov](mailto:alex.gerszewski@doc.ok.gov) with the following information:

- The name, title and work address of all personnel attending from the organization of the represented party including drivers and live truck operators
- The number of vehicles including make, model and license plate numbers
- The name of the reporter from the organization to be considered as a media witness to the execution

Failure to provide the listed information or any emails received later than 3 p.m. on Oct. 5 will jeopardize the organization's access to the media center established at the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center (JBCC) visitation facility and the witness selection process on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

On Oct. 7, all personnel in attendance must be able to provide photo identification.

### **Selection of Media Witnesses**

A total of five media witnesses are allowed to view the execution, with two seats being reserved for a local media representative in the community the crime was committed and for a representative with the Associated Press.

In the case of Benjamin Cole, the crime was committed in Rogers County, therefore interested media witnesses from the Rogers County market will be randomly selected by a name draw.

The same name draw process will be used to select the remaining three media witness spots.

Only one representative from each organization will be permitted to submit a name for the witness draw.

The name draw selection process will take place at approximately 2 p.m. at the JBCC visitation center. When coming to the visitor's center, please use the address for the Oklahoma State Penitentiary: [1301 N. West St. McAlester, OK 74502-0097](#). Upon arrival, an official at the gate will direct interested media personnel.

Media witnesses selected must agree to the stipulations outlined in the attached policy. The attached policy must be printed, initialed, signed and brought to the media center on Oct. 7.

The agreement can also be found on the [DOC website](#).

After the witnesses are selected, they will board a DOC van and will be taken to OSP where they will be led into the witness area.

Selected media witnesses will be provided with a pencil and paper. Electronic devices are not allowed.

After the execution, witnesses will be transported back to the JBCC media center.

### **Media Center**

The media center will open at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 7. No access into the building will be allowed after 11:30 a.m. Access to the grounds of OSP will not be provided prior to 10:30 a.m.

The gates to the facility will be closed at 1 p.m. There will be no movement in or out of the facility until the execution proceedings are completed.

Wi-Fi is not available on the facility grounds.

There are restricted areas where there is no filming allowed. If an organization films in a restricted area or does not comply with the DOC guidelines, they will be removed from the grounds immediately. Actions taken by an individual will reflect on the represented organization and risk future coverage with the DOC.

The media center will close at 5:30 p.m. and everyone will be asked to vacate the premises shortly thereafter.

### **Additional Information**

For more information on the process, procedures and protocol on the DOC execution methods, please visit the department's website at <http://www.ok.gov/doc/>.

Any questions can be directed to Alex Gerszewski at the information below.

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