The execution of Clayton Lockett was halted after a doctor acknowledged that because of problems in administering the drugs, there were not enough left to carry out the death sentence, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections said Thursday.

The revelation came as Oklahoma's governor called for an investigation into the attempted execution that, according to some witnesses, left Lockett writhing in pain after a vein collapsed. A new and previously unused drug combination was reportedly used in the attempted execution.

A timeline released by the state Department of Corrections details what occurred after Lockett's execution was abruptly halted and a shade was lowered, blocking the view of witnesses.

"The doctor checked the IV and reported the blood vein had collapsed, and the drugs had either absorbed into tissue, leaked out or both," according to the timeline.

The director of the corrections department then asked whether Lockett had been given enough of the drug combination to kill him, and the doctor said "no."

"Is another vein available? And if so, are there enough drugs remaining?" the doctor was asked, according to the timeline.

The doctor's answer to both questions: "No."

Lockett's attempted execution was carried out Tuesday at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, where he had been housed following his conviction and death sentence for shooting Stephanie Nieman and then watching as two others buried her alive in 1999.

Lockett died from an apparent heart attack, 43 minutes after the execution began.
The autopsy on Lockett, being conducted at Southwestern Institute for Forensic Science in Dallas, will take up to 12 weeks, Capt. George Brown of the Oklahoma Department of Prisons said. He did not offer an explanation for the length of time for the autopsy.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, its execution protocol includes midazolam, which causes unconsciousness, vecuronium bromide, which stops respiration, and potassium chloride, which is meant to stop the heart.

What follows is the Department of Corrections timeline of the execution:

-- At 5:22 p.m. local time, Lockett is restrained on the execution table.

-- Between 5:27 p.m. and 6:18 p.m., he is examined by a phlebotomist, who examines his arms, legs and feet for appropriate veins to administer drugs.

-- At 6:18 p.m., an IV is inserted into a vein in Lockett's groin area, and his lower body is then covered with a sheet.

-- At 6:23 p.m., the curtain in the execution chamber is raised, and the doctor administers the first drug intravenously.

-- At 6:30 p.m., Lockett is still conscious.

-- At 6:33 p.m., the doctor declares Lockett is unconscious and begins to administer the second and third drugs.

-- At 6:42 p.m., the curtain is lowered.

-- At 6:44 p.m., the doctor checks the IV and reports Lockett's vein has collapsed.

-- Between 6:44 p.m. and 6:56 p.m., the prison warden calls Department of Corrections Director Robert Patton and reports the information. The director asks the doctor a number of questions regarding Lockett's condition:

The warden “responded the doctor was checking the offender’s heart beat and found a faint heart beat and the offender was unconscious,” according to the timeline.

-- At 7:06 p.m., Lockett is declared dead.

There is nothing in the timeline that echoes the statements of witnesses, primarily journalists, who said 16 minutes into the execution Lockett was writhing in pain and appeared to be conscious.

According to Courtney Francisco of CNN affiliate KFOR, Lockett seemed to try to get up and to talk, saying “man” aloud.

Other reporters -- including Cary Aspinwall of the Tulsa World newspaper -- claimed that Lockett was “still alive,” having lifted his head while prison officials lowered the blinds, blocking the view of the proceedings.

Charles Warner was scheduled to be executed later that night at the same prison. His execution has been postponed, at least temporarily.

Lockett and Warner had been at the center of a court fight over the drugs used in their execution.

They’d initially challenged the state Department of Corrections’ unwillingness to divulge which drugs would be used. The department later disclosed the substances.

Lockett and Warner also took issue with the state’s so-called secrecy provision forbidding it from disclosing the identities of anyone involved in the execution process or suppliers of any drugs or medical equipment.

Oklahoma's high court initially issued stays on their executions, only to lift those stays last week, ruling the two men had no right to know
We recommend

Probes advance one month after Michael Brown shooting
Blood moon the sequel had millions gazing at the skies
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Comments for this thread are now closed.

1227 Comments

Sort by Best

Johnny Alpha • 5 months ago
I wouldn’t call it “botched” at all
137

just say’n • Johnny Alpha • 5 months ago
The Obamacare website was botched, Libya was botched, the reset button was botched, security at the marathon bombing was botched.
A person who kidnapped, raped, shot, buried, and burned is dead. I call that a great success.
88

us777 • just say’n • 5 months ago
That certainly does not sound like a statement I would make. But... something inside me wants to agree with you. I’m glad he’s dead.
24

the Colosseum is full • us777 • 5 months ago
why ? we can’t torture him now .. lol
1

Travis • the Colosseum is full • 5 months ago
I agree with torturing, I got no sympathy for these animals that hippies like Peace Lover are calling “humans”, ya got a problem with an animal that is out of control, you putem down.

sosupernova • just say’n • 5 months ago
It was just a matter of time before someone blamed Obama for the botched execution!
16

Guest • sosupernova • 5 months ago
It was just a matter of time before Obama injected himself where he should not have been. If this POS had been white, Obama would be silent.
5

just say’n • sosupernova • 5 months ago
I am not blaming Obama, I am saying to call this botched is a little sillt. In the end the job got done.
4

TheLibertarian • sosupernova • 5 months ago

the source of the drugs intended to kill them.

CNN’s Dana Ford, Greg Botelho and Ross Levitt contributed to this report.
Reading comprehension is not a hallmark of the left.

the Colosseum is full → sosupernova  •  5 months ago
Obama was there when he was biting on the hose causing the solution to be restricted...I paid him to do so that they would have to come to me to seek my death chamber and I would get rich killing a bunch of condemned people by sending them off to a restful little nap for eternity...my death chamber is so peaceful and restful they might even start to executing women lol ;)

Guest → just say'n  •  5 months ago
Iraq was botched, Afghanistan was botched, security of airplanes was botched, the economy was botched...I'll take 8 years of Obama vs 1 month of GW any day!

TheLibertarian → Guest  •  5 months ago
Clueless.

Angus → TheLibertarian  •  5 months ago
amen...we have had 6 years of clueless

the Colosseum is full → Guest  •  5 months ago
I guess I would have to agree with you...but the problem is not with the President whoever he is...it is with you people on the left and on the right the ones in between and the ones on the outer fringes of both sides...everyone should come back to the middle where we would have balance in the force. but you have pushed each other so far apart, the only solution may be a cataclysmic event in which both of each side is greatly damaged...where the most important thing is your survival..

Workingforlife → just say'n  •  5 months ago
Okay. You guys all missed the point of having constitutional rights dont you? What if we had executions next for petty theft or other crimes such as littering (execution use to be a common penalty for any felony in the 1800s)? Should we collapse their veins too? These rights that were violated affect you and me, not just murderers.

SGTRena → Workingforlife  •  5 months ago
lol...apples and oranges...and not even on the list of choices. What if? Oh the outrage! The 8th amendment does not affect law abiding citizens and for most of us, the idea of letting them off easy is sort of disrespectful to their victims. I'm guessing that's your inept version of using your "reasoning" skills. I say return to hanging or firing squad, then we can avoid collapsing more veins for jerkoffs who rape and murder their victims. Pity it wasn't the F"*"er who raped the 11 mo old.

OCGURLY → SGTRena  •  5 months ago
Well stated SGTRena!
I do not understand the public outcry claiming this inmate (aka atrocious animal) was treated "INHUMANLY" and that the "poor, poor inmate suffered too much", reporters citing "Lockett was convulsing, attempting to breathe, etc." - This man is NOT THE VICTIM!! Is it just me, or is the general
public (US/Internationally) overseeing the fact that the dude SHOT an innocent 19 year old, who was later BURIED ALIVE...any punishment would pale in comparison to this innocent girl struggling to stay alive in a shallow grave.

I simply cannot fathom how the public is able to find any form of "sympathy" for this SOB who should've been executed 10 years ago...

This man deserves absolutely zero sympathy. So the "botched" execution may/may not have caused him pain; but the ultimate goal was achieved...he's dead and no more Taxpayer's monies funding his "3 hots and a cot."

SGTRena → OCGURLY · 5 months ago
lol...agreed. However, I would forego shooting him in the head and start at the knees instead.

Tha Juggla → SGTRena · 5 months ago
Meh, waste of amunition for the next inmate. Then again, we could pull a Saddam amd strap a hand grenade to ones chest, pull the pin, then shove in a ditch and walk away....

Workingforlife → SGTRena · 5 months ago
Whether you are law abiding citizen or not is a subjective issue, not objective.

just say'n → Workingforlife · 5 months ago
12 jurors and 15 years of appeals is objective not subjective.

SGTRena → Workingforlife · 5 months ago
Actually it is not. You either break laws or you do not.

denverboy1 → Workingforlife · 5 months ago
Not only do they miss the point they do so because for them it’s not about justice .. It’s about revenge .. They are willing to give up there rights for a seat at the Show ..

Guest → denverboy1 · 5 months ago
Justice would have been a swift shot in the head the moment he was found guilty.

Wolfaxe451 → Guest · 5 months ago
And what about the people who are wrongly convicted, and end up being exonerated years later? Do you just tell them oops, sorry, we were too trigger happy

Workingforlife → denverboy1 · 5 months ago
Yep. You got it right denverboy1.

just say'n → Workingforlife · 5 months ago
The people who wrote the constitution hanged rapists. To say they “intended” to not execute a monster like this is laughable.
the Colosseum is full ➔ denverboy1 • 5 months ago
no, it’s about given the guy whats due to him...
do you want to have the road clear so that you can go out
and kill somebody only so you can have the state take care
of you fer the rest of yo miserable life... ????
Is that what you want...

just say’n ➔ Workingforlife • 5 months ago
Please present evidence for your statement.

KrisMurphyBlountCountyAL ➔ Johnny Alpha • 5 months ago
In many countries, one person at the scene of the execution would have
been tasked to deliver the coup de gras. Maybe that could be added to
the execution process?

Guyvsspy1 ➔ KrisMurphyBlountCountyAL • 5 months ago
38,000 Americans succeed in death by drug overdose a year, the
Oklahoma prison system can’t succeed in......... 1.

Emm ➔ Guyvsspy1 • 5 months ago
I am not for the death penalty, but if we are going to do it,
then we just need to do it. We need to stop trying to be nice
about killing someone and just hang them or shoot them or
put them in a wood chipper,... not this namby pamby
process so we don’t feel as guilty about killing them.

Guest ➔ Emm • 5 months ago
They say botched....I say successful, he is dead right, and
the goal was for him to die....sounds like they got it right to
me. Kinda nice to know he suffered like his poor victim.

Guest ➔ Guest • 5 months ago
I know you’re a good, law-abiding citizen because you take
such sadistic pleasure in the painful death of others.

Liberals Lie ➔ Guest • 5 months ago
I enjoy it when the state provides its citizens with a display
of justice such as the EXECUTION of a duly convicted piece
of human trash such as this. A man who brutally and with
completely sound mind enjoyed in the torture, humiliation,
and destruction of a young woman for his sick sadistic
pleasure.

I think it is a sober reminder than we as a society will not
stand by and allow a person such as this to live out their life
in any manner to its natural end because we do not want to
share our existence with a monster such as them.

We want to remove from our world the stink of this filth in
an expedited manner to give those who still exist and
remember the victim this tiny bit of satisfaction.
That is the comfort of knowing that this evil creature will
never hurt anyone else ever again.
That the price their loved one paid was in the end to remove
this monster from the world.

Screw your outraged liberal sensibilities.

Guest ➔ Liberals Lie • 5 months ago
And that is precisely what makes you so morally superior to
these murderers who extinguish the lives of people they
hate to be nothing but human trash.
Mikhail → Guest · 5 months ago

No. What makes him superior is that he wants to execute people who have been convicted in a court of law by a jury of their peers for terrible crimes such as shooting an innocent 19 year old girl and burying her alive. Meanwhile, these criminals who he wants executed do it for kicks. Get your facts straight.

Liberals Lie → Guest · 5 months ago

Yes, I am morally superior to both the murder and the liberal who cry for the murderer and I will tell you why.

Because I actually care about the well being of my fellow man and woman. I have found myself in the situation where I have had to protect another from physical harm and am willing to do what I must to deter another man from hurting a woman or child. I will not turn my back on a woman or child knowing that I might be all that stands between them and a rapist or a bad beating.

I am not the toughest guy in the world but I will not back down if put to the test. Would you let two twenty year old guys drag a 14 year old into the bushes or would you pull your gun a yell at them to release the girl or face you on that dark beach?

Guest → Liberals Lie · 5 months ago

You are so morally superior that you enjoy the horror other human beings go through in a tortuous death. Nothing could be more morally superior than looking at another person's pain and taking pleasure in it. You are Mr. Morally Superior!

Liberals Lie → Guest · 5 months ago

When you choose to attack helpless people for no reason then you choose to accept the consequence. You liberals just don’t like consequences and responsibility. Sorry but them’s the rules and you can just call me Superman.

Angus → Guest · 5 months ago

Did you bother to research what this scumbag did? I doubt it...

Guest → Guest · 5 months ago

Yes, but if the goal of lethal injection is to make executions more “humane” or make most people feel better about then, then it was indeed botched. And if he had not had a heart attack, and thus had survived, would they have tried again some other day? Even Iran doesn’t usually do that.

DisgustedPGVtraveler → Guest · 5 months ago

Humane? What about his victim he buried alived? Duh

nova_scotian → emm · 5 months ago

With an opinion like that, you must not be American. People from the USA hold themselves in high regard, but they’re mostly just like a bunch of village folk carrying pitchforks looking for revenge, quite similar to a bunch of tribal Iranians.
Guest  •  omn  •  5 months ago

Beheading is swift and efficient. A bit messy, but so is the firing squad.

DisgustedPGVtraveler  •  Guest  •  5 months ago

Yes agree, let's go back to the "chopping block" of beheading. It's fast and done.

Andrei Bilderburger  •  Guest  •  5 months ago

Or you could always shoot them in the head with a 155 mm howitzer. They'd never know what happened.

Tha Juggla  •  Andrei Bilderburger  •  5 months ago

Meh. Lets just take Saddam's play and strap a grenade to ones chest...

Packman101  •  Guest  •  5 months ago

Cyanide - good enough for Hitler! Good enough for this guy!

Guest  •  Packman101  •  5 months ago

I am so pleased to live in a country where so many good people like you think through how to murder others.