

THE STATE OF

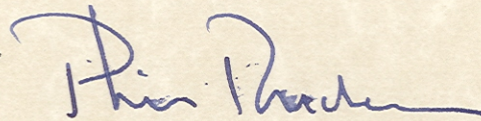


TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

REPRIEVE

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby grant to Sedley Alley a reprieve from execution of the sentence of death imposed upon him by the Criminal Court of Shelby County on March 18, 1987, and scheduled to be carried out on May 17, 2006. (*State v. Alley*, No. M1991-00019-SC-DPE-DD (Tenn. Mar. 29, 2006)). This reprieve shall continue in effect until May 31, 2006.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed at Nashville on this, the 16th day of May, 2006.



Governor

Secretary of State

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR PHIL BREDESEN
GRANTING FIFTEEN-DAY REPRIEVE TO SEDLEY ALLEY

Last week I received a request from attorneys for death row inmate Sedley Alley for a reprieve from his execution scheduled tomorrow. Mr. Alley seeks a reprieve in order to pursue DNA testing on evidence from the trial in 1987 at which he was convicted of brutally kidnapping, raping and murdering Suzanne Collins.

As has been my policy, and the policy of previous governors, I referred Mr. Alley's clemency request to the Board of Probation and Parole to hold a hearing and make a recommendation. After a five-hour hearing, the Board returned a 4-3 recommendation for a brief reprieve to allow Mr. Alley to seek further testing.

This horrific murder occurred in 1985, and Mr. Alley's conviction has been litigated continuously in state and federal courts since that time.

Based on the overwhelming weight of the evidence against him, I believe Mr. Alley to be guilty of this heinous crime. However, I am acutely aware that in capital cases mistakes cannot be corrected, and so out of respect for the Board's recommendation, I am reluctantly issuing a reprieve for fifteen days.

During that time, I expect Mr. Alley's attorneys to return to state court and to seek permission to test those additional items that were not included in his 2004 petition. In light of his statements yesterday to the Board, I would also expect the Shelby County District Attorney to oppose this request.

If Mr. Alley cannot convince the courts to allow such additional testing, or if such additional testing is performed without clearly exonerating Mr. Alley, then the vast weight of other evidence of his guilt will continue to prevail, and I expect that a new execution date will be scheduled promptly.

The efficacy and appropriateness of DNA tests is not an issue that the Governor's office can or should resolve. These matters are properly the province of the court system, and we have in this state a judicial process by which such requests can be made and claims tested. This brief reprieve will allow this process to run to completion.