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District Attorney's Office Files Motion to Withdraw Execution Date for Karl Chamberlain in Light of U.S. Supreme Court's Pending Review of Lethal Injection

(DALLAS – January 31, 2008) – Today, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office filed a motion in the 291st Judicial District Court, Judge Susan Hawk presiding, to withdraw the current execution date for Karl Chamberlain set for February 21, 2008, as it waits for the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the lethal injection issue.

“As we have maintained since the U.S. Supreme Court launched its review of the lethal injection issue, we believe withdrawing Karl Chamberlain's current execution date is the smart thing to do until the Supreme Court renders its ruling,” said Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins.

The U.S. Supreme Court is conducting a review of the three-drug lethal injection mixture used for executions in most U.S. states that have the death penalty, to determine if lethal injection violates the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which prohibits “cruel and unusual punishment.”

Chamberlain was convicted of capital murder for the 1991 sexual assault and murder of a 30-year-old Dallas woman. He was apprehended for the crime in 1996 and a jury found him guilty and sentenced him to death on June 5, 1997. Mr. Chamberlain was the last person in the State of Texas scheduled for execution in 2008.

The victim's family and Chamberlain's attorney have been notified by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office of its decision to withdraw the execution date.

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