

**PUBLIC**

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**Further Information on EXTRA 36/03 (AMR 51/101/2003, 11 July 2003) Death Penalty**

**USA (Ohio)                      Richard Wade Cooley (m), white, aged 36**

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Richard Wade Cooley, who was scheduled to be executed in Ohio on 24 July, has received an indefinite stay of execution. He was sentenced to death in 1986 for the murders of Dawn McCreery and Wendy Offredo, aged 20 and 21 respectively, committed in August of that year in Akron, Ohio.

U.S. District Judge Dan Aaron Polster granted the request of Cooley's lawyer for more time to study the case. Polster appointed Gregory Meyers of the Ohio Public Defender's office to take over the case after an appeal court dismissed Cooley's previous attorneys, Margery Koosed and Nathan Ray. Polster said that Cooley was deprived of competent counsel and without any federal representation for at least five weeks before his execution date.

**No further action by the UA Network is requested at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**