

SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

STATE OF ARIZONA,) Arizona Supreme Court
) No. CR-13-0282-AP
 Appellee,)
 v.) Maricopa County
) Superior Court
) No. CR2003-038541-001
 AARON BRIAN GUNCHES,)
) **FILED 3/14/2025**
 Appellant.)
 _____)

O R D E R

On March 12, 2025, Appellant Aaron Brian Gunches, through his advisory counsel, filed a *Motion to Order ADCRR to Allow Mr. Gunches' Witnesses to Witness the Execution* ("Motion"), requesting that "this Court order the State and ADCRR to allow his. . . designated non-legal witnesses to attend his execution."

On March 13, 2024, the Appellee State of Arizona filed its *Response to Motion to Order ADCRR to Allow Mr. Gunches' Witnesses to Witness the Execution*, and Crime Victim Karen Price filed *Crime Victim's Response to Motion to Order ADCRR to Allow Mr. Gunches' Witnesses to Witness the Execution*.

Upon consideration by the Court,

The State's *Response to Motion to Order ADCRR to Allow Mr. Gunches' Witnesses to Witness the Execution* indicates that "ADCRR has decided to exercise its discretion. . . [and] allow Gunches to designate the witness of his choosing, as indicated in Attachment A, to attend the March 19, 2025, execution as a "friend" . . . pending background check and ultimate approval by Director Ryan Thornell and in accordance with all policy requirements."

The *Crime Victim's Response to Motion to Order ADCRR to Allow Mr. Gunches' Witnesses to Witness the Execution* states that Crime Victim Karen Price "does not take a position on the motion filed by Inmate Gunches provided that she, her husband, and undersigned counsel, all who have already been approved and invited by ADCRR, are not excluded from being present as witnesses to Inmate Gunches' execution."

Therefore, with the understanding that Director Thornell, in accordance with policy requirements, will approve the witness designated by Gunches to attend his execution absent the witness failing the background check,

IT IS ORDERED that Appellant's *Motion to Order ADCRR to Allow Mr. Gunches' Witnesses to Witness the Execution* is denied as moot.

DATED this 14th day of March 2025.

/s/
ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
Chief Justice

Vice Chief Justice John R. Lopez IV, Justice James P. Beene, and Justice William G. Montgomery are recused and did not participate in the determination of this matter.

The Honorable Peter Eckerstrom, Judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals—Division Two, and the Honorable David D. Weinzweig, Judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals—Division One, are designated to sit on this case until it is finally determined.

TO:

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