

Kenneth Williams was executed on April 27, 2017. Multiple media witnesses reported irregularities in what they observed. Below is a statement from Shawn Nolan, one of the attorneys for Mr. Williams, and Chief of the Capital Habeas Unit Federal Community Defender for the Eastern District of PA.

"The accounts of the execution of Mr. Williams tonight are horrifying. We tried over and over again to get the state to comport with their own protocol to avoid torturing our client to death, and yet reports from the execution witnesses indicate that Mr. Williams suffered during this execution. Press reports state that within three minutes into the execution, our client began coughing, convulsing, jerking and lurching with sound that was audible even with the microphone turned off. This is very disturbing, but not at all surprising, given the history of the risky sedative midazolam, which has been used in many botched executions. What's important right now is that all the information about tonight's execution must be meticulously documented and preserved so that we can discover exactly what happened in that execution chamber. The courts were wrong for not intervening. Governor Hutchinson's spokesman, who commented that our client experienced "involuntary muscular reactions," is simply trying to whitewash the reality of what happened. We are requesting a full investigation into tonight's problematic execution."

*-Shawn Nolan
-April 28, 2017*