

Supreme Court Denies Michael Ryan Latest Appeal

(AP)--The U.S. Supreme Court this week rejected the latest appeal effort by Nebraska death row inmate Michael Ryan.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports the court's decision not to hear his case means Ryan is running out of options. But the state currently has no means to carry out the 66-year-old's death sentence.

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services spokesman James Foster says the protocol calls for specific drugs they don't have.

A spokeswoman for new Attorney General Doug Peterson said the state is "examining and analyzing the situation."

Ryan was sentenced to death in 1985 in the cult-related torture and killings of 26-year-old James Thimm, and 5-year-old Luke Stice near Rulo.

Ryan had asked the nation's highest court to take his case last July, three months after the Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed his conviction and sentence.

Nebraska switched from the electric chair to lethal injection in 2009 but has not carried out an execution since.

Ryan remains on death row at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution.

Associated Press