

Title: Legal Hermeneutics in the State of Ohio Execution Process
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If a law is ineffective when it is interpreted dogmatically, then it must allow for a more hermeneutical interpretation. The current procedure used by Ohio to perform an execution by means of lethal injection is the State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Execution Protocol. This procedure of execution by lethal injections causes the individual who is to be executed to suffer extreme physical pain. This is due to the dogmatic interpretation of the pre-established legal procedure derived from the natural sciences. Not only this, but this essay seeks to demonstrate how the State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction Execution Protocol shows a complete indifference and disregard to the 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution: “Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.” (James Madison, Bill of Rights). An empirical approach to the interpretation of a legal text that is derived from the natural sciences seeks to understand the world based on *a priori* observation and experimentation. This interferes with a hermeneutical interpretation of the text, one derived from the human sciences, which explores how people respond subjectively to phenomena. In *Truth and Method*, Hans-Georg Gadamer discusses the importance of hermeneutically interpreting a legal precedent. Laws have their own ontology, and are a product of a historically effected consciousness, therefore, they must be approached hermeneutically, bringing transparency to one’s fore-understanding and applying it to one’s subjective. This essay advocates for this philosophy of Gadamer.

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