

The definition of the "death penalty" is "putting a condemned person to death." The death penalty is also sometimes called "capital punishment." The death penalty is not a punishment used in all criminal cases. It is only used in cases involving murder, rape, treason, capital drug trafficking, capital sexual battery, aircraft hijacking and kidnapping with bodily injury or ransom when the victim dies.

Not all states use the death penalty. There are thirty six states that use the death penalty as a form of criminal punishment. There are only fourteen states that don't use the death penalty as a form of criminal punishment. It is the right of each individual states to decide if they want to use the death penalty or not. The states that currently use the death penalty are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, south Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. The states that currently don't use the death penalty are: Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

There are several different methods used for the death penalty. These methods include lethal injections, electrocution, gas chamber, hanging and firing squad. Lethal injection "refers to the practice of injecting a person with a fatal dose of drugs for the explicit purpose of causing the death of the subject. The main applications for this