

AN OVERVIEW ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The history of the death penalty in the USA may be traced back to . For a more extensive historical overview on the death penalty see The.

No state in the Northeast has conducted an execution since Connecticut, now abolitionist, in 1965. That opportunity arrived just four years after Furman in a series of five related decisions involving different state statutes. In his appeal, Patrick Kennedy argued that the Louisiana law was unconstitutional under an important Supreme Court ruling, Coker v. Georgia. The majority decision in Furman was highly fractured, and each of the five justices issued a separate opinion. The Death Penalty and Juveniles Although the execution of juveniles under the age of sixteen was considered unconstitutional in some states, restrictions still existed. Still, the general thrust of the opinions was that existing state death penalty statutes were too arbitrary to guarantee the fair and uniform application of capital punishment. At the same time, they argue, an inmate who has regained consciousness may not be able to alert authorities to any pain or suffering due to the total paralysis caused by the second drug. First, the inmate is rendered unconscious with sodium thiopental, a sedative used as an anesthetic. Prisoners may also use federal habeas corpus suits to bring forth new evidence that they are innocent of the crime, though to be a valid defense at this late stage in the process, evidence of innocence must be truly compelling. In these two cases, the court ruled that some discretion must be left to judges and juries to determine whether the death penalty is appropriate. US manufacturer Hospira stopped producing the drug in 2013. Abstract: The first documented execution in the United States occurred in 1790. It was only through the writings of European theorists such as Montesquieu, Voltaire, Bentham, and the English Quakers John Bellers and John Howard that the abolitionist movement took hold. Executions of offenders age 15 and younger at the time of their crimes are declared unconstitutional. The following is a list of the 16 aggravating factors under federal law. January 16, 1977 - Ohio executes inmate Dennis McGuire with a new combination of drugs, due to the unavailability of drugs such as pentobarbital. These cases suggest that for the opponents of the death penalty to be successful in their efforts, they will need to focus on categories of conduct and persons rather than on the procedures by which states sentence people to death. March 1, 1971 - Roper v. Simmons. The state uses a combination of the drugs midazolam and hydromorphone, according to the state corrections department. These guideline statutes were approved by the Supreme Court in Gregg v. Georgia. California has twenty-two. Five other states – Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, Montana and Oklahoma – subsequently enacted laws making child rape a capital crime, although these statutes, unlike the Louisiana law, allow a death sentence for child rape only in cases where the convicted child rapist already has a prior conviction for the same crime. Although the abolition of the death penalty was increasing in Europe, the US still retained it. In other states, inmates have been forced to endure longer than normal executions due to mistakes by prison personnel who did not have adequate medical training. May 30, 2003 - New Hampshire repeals the death penalty after the state legislature votes to override a veto from Governor Chris Sununu, making it the 21st state to abolish capital punishment in the US. In May 2008, an Ohio judge issues an order suspending executions in the state so that authorities can further study new lethal injection protocols. Being convicted of a separate felony where death or life imprisonment was authorized prior to the aggravated murder. It came up in the October 13, 2002, debate between the two presidential nominees George H. W. Bush and Al Gore. In 1988, the Supreme Court maintained that the Eighth Amendment did not prohibit capital punishment for crimes committed by sixteen year olds, Stanford v. Kentucky. Show competence goals Vocabulary deterrent, abolitionist, gallows, repeal, capital crime, penitentiary, correctional facilities, abolish, treason, discretionary, enact, lethal, confine, Prohibition era, atrocities, arbitrary, impartiality, void, mandatory, aggravating, mitigating, reinstate, retain, juvenile Early History Rights for reuse and sharing of content. Death Penalty Reinstated Executions resumed with the execution of murderer Gary Gilmore, in front of a firing squad, on January 17, 1976, in Utah. It was in that Pennsylvania, the first state to consider degrees of murder, repealed the Death Penalty for all offenses except first degree murder. April 25, 2008 - The Oklahoma Death Penalty Review Commission releases a report recommending the continuation of the moratorium on the death penalty, citing the need for significant reforms. As a reaction, by five of the six abolitionist states had reinstated the death

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