
FACTS ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY

The US currently has 19 states that have abolished the death penalty. An additional 4 states have moratoriums on the death penalty. 30 states in total have either abolished the death penalty, have executions on hold or have not carried out an execution in the last 10 years.

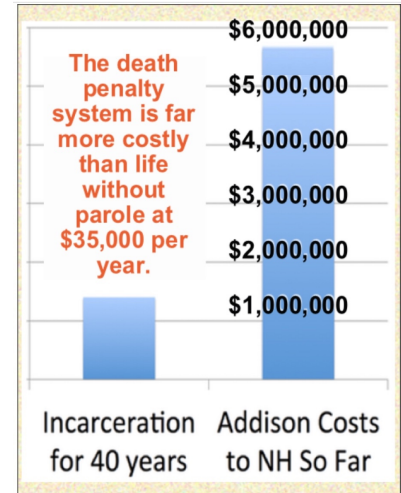
Though no one has been executed in New Hampshire since 1939, over the last decade there have been two capital cases in NH, with one resulting in a death sentence.

The death penalty costs NH taxpayers millions of dollars

Since 2008, NH's only death row inmate has already cost NH taxpayers over \$5.5 million. NH pays for both prosecution and defense in capital cases. Capital trials are much longer, security costs are higher, and years of appeals (13 years on average, nationally) are costly. NH taxpayers may have to pay millions more over the next 5-10 years for a single inmate, and millions more for each new capital case.

The NH Department of Corrections has requested \$1.7 million to build a 3,400 sq ft death chamber facility.

The alternative sentence of life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) is a fraction of the cost of the death penalty.



Yes, we have executed innocent people in the U.S.



“The death penalty creates the unacceptable risk that a person may be wrongfully executed.”

– Joseph Nadeau
former N.H. Supreme Court Justice

Since 1972, 164 death row inmates have been exonerated. Studies estimate that more than 300 people who were sentenced to death row during that time were likely innocent.

Death row exonerations have revealed cases that are riddled with problems, including mistaken eyewitness identifications, incompetent lawyers, shoddy forensics, unreliable jailhouse snitches, and coerced confessions.

New Hampshire is not immune to these and other problems in the criminal justice system. But New Hampshire already has a corrections system with the sentence of life without the possibility of parole for first degree murder. This sentence ensures public safety and also eliminates the risk of killing an innocent human being.



Cameron Todd Willingham was executed in 2004 in Texas for a fire that killed

his three children, but impartial investigators now say there was no arson.



Claude Jones was executed in Texas in 2000 for a murder he didn't commit. In 2010, DNA testing proved

that the central evidence tying Jones to the crime scene – a hair fragment – was not his.



Carlos DeLuna was executed in Texas, but an independent investigation has since

concluded that he was innocent.



Executions create more victims



“I started to have some horrible nightmares. It’s the faces of the men that I executed. I wake up and see them literally sitting on the edge of my bed. I’ve moved over to make room for them. They don’t say anything to me. They just look.”

–Ron McAndrew, 22-year veteran with the FL Dept of Corrections

Wardens and executioners experience trauma, PTSD, and significantly higher than average rates of alcoholism,

Every death sentence requires a team of executioners who are involved with the details of killing the inmate. Corrections officers, wardens, doctors, nurses and EMTs are required to actively take part in and witness the execution. Scientific research shows that members of these execution teams suffer emotionally after taking part in an execution. These individuals suffer from high rates of chronic mental health problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

Here is what prison wardens have said:

“You sentenced a guy to be executed. You give him a trial, then you send him to me to be put to death. Then later on you [say] that this guy was innocent. You didn’t put him to death. I did. I performed the execution. So you might suffer a little. I’m going to suffer a lot, because I performed the job,”

–Jerry Givens, retired Executioner, Virginia Department of Corrections

“I look at a serial killer every day when I look in a mirror. I see a serial killer, and at times it becomes unbearable.”

–Terry Bracey, former executioner, South Carolina Dept of Corrections

“There is a part of the warden that dies with his prisoner.”

–Don Cabana, former superintendent and executioner of the Mississippi State Penitentiary

Botched executions are becoming more common

More and more pharmaceutical companies are refusing to sell drugs for lethal injection purposes. This is forcing states to use different, often untried drug formulas that are causing a drastic increase in botched executions.

In addition to harmful and ineffective drug formulas, reports show that the execution teams may not have the proper needles and other medical equipment and that they often have difficulty finding veins that work. The American Medical Association and National Nurses Association have refused to let their members be involved in executions.

What was intended to be a quick and painless form of execution is instead resulting in long, painful and horrific executions, further traumatizing corrections officers, the families of those being executed, and other witnesses.

According to Fordham University Law Professor Deborah Denno, an expert on lethal injection, “Amidst the chaos of drug shortages, changing protocols, legal challenges, and botched executions, states are unwavering in their desire to conceal this disturbing reality from the public.”



Deborah Denno, PhD

“I had just watched a man be tortured to death.”

– Florida Death Row Chaplain Dale Recinella, after witnessing the botched execution of Angel Diaz