



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2004

I10 A Contemporary Review of Discriminatory Practices in the Implementation of Capital Punishment in America

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This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by discussing issues concerning fairness in the implementation of capital punishment.

Capital punishment can be a stern, and certainly final response to violent criminal behavior. Professionals and political leaders have struggled with this process for centuries. As a society, in recent years, we have begun to address these concerns in both medical and legal settings. Although some of these determinations have been helpful in focusing the perspective of this entire process, clearly, discrimination against the mentally ill and ethnic minority group members remains a significant feature in this entire endeavor. This presentation will attempt to delineate many of those forms of discrimination and will address key rationale for and against the use of the death penalty for capital offenses.

Capital Punishment, Death Penalty, Discrimination