

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

The book definition of Capital Punishment states: It is a legal process whereby a person is put to death by the state as a punishment for a crime. The judicial decree that someone be punished in this manner is a **death sentence**, while the actual enforcement is an **execution**. Crimes that can result in a death penalty are known as *capital crimes* or *capital offenses*. The term *capital* originates from the Latin *capitalis*, literally "regarding the head" (referring to execution by beheading).