

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

THE DEATH OF A PRISON NURSE

The following case involves the death of a prison nurse. Read the description provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and answer the questions that follow:

On the afternoon of October 25, 2010, Employee#1, a 55-yr-old female prison nurse, was treating inmates for alcohol withdrawal at a county detention facility. As medications were being administered, one of the inmates grabbed an unsecured metal desk lamp and violently struck the nurse in the head. The severely injured nurse slumped to the floor and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she was immediately placed

on emergency life support. She died from her injuries three days later.

YOU DECIDE

1. Based on the information provided, what are the reasons you would or would not support the death penalty in this case?
2. Should the prison be held liable on any level for the inmate's behavior?

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (n.d.). Inmate strikes and fatally injures prison nurse. Retrieved from https://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/accidentsearch.accident_detail?id=202507927