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Deterrence is one of the more "rational" goals of sentencing. It is an easily articulated goal and it is possible to investigate objectively the amount of punishment required to deter. Deterrence is compatible with the goal of incapacitation. At least specific deterrence can be achieved through incapacitating offenders. The sentence is not a purely logical exercise, and the troublesome nature of the sentencing discretion arises in large measure from unavoidable difficulty in giving weight to each of the purposes of punishment. The purposes of criminal punishment are various: protection of society, deterrence of the offender and of others who might be tempted to offend, retribution and reform. The purposes overlap and none of them can be considered in isolation from the others when determining what is an appropriate sentence in a particular case. They are guides to the appropriate sentence but sometimes th...