

## **Privatization: The Decision is not Easy**

Thomas W. Smith

Privatization is the process of transferring productive operations and assets from the public sector to the private sector. Because it includes contracting, leasing, private sector financing of infrastructure or objects, and liquidation, as well as other means of moving operations to the private sector, privatization is much more complex than the sale of an enterprise to the highest bidder. This research will examine legal obligations, fiscal concerns, liability issues and administrative controls with regard to medical care for inmates in jail facilities. The path to privatization, depending on both agency goals and economic and political considerations of the governing organization, are discussed.