



# Genene Jones – The Death Shift



**Genene Jones is a former nurse  
convicted of murder of one baby,  
injury to another**

# Background

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- ▼ Was born on July 13, 1950 and was immediately given up for adoption.
- ▼ Her new parents also adopted three other children as well – two older and one younger than Genene.
- ▼ Her father – was an entrepreneur and a professional gambler. He worked in the entertainment business. He was free-spending and generous, but his lifestyle eventually took a toll on his family.
- ▼ When Genene was ten, her father was arrested from stealing a large safe of a man who had been at Jones' club at the time of the burglary. But somehow the charges were dropped.
- ▼ Genene had a hard time getting attention. She felt left out and unfavored by her parents. She went around calling herself the family's "black sheep, and at school she became bossy.
- ▼ She was short and overweight, which added to her loneliness. There were acquaintances who called her aggressive and friends who said she had betrayed them. She was known for lying and manipulating people.
- ▼ Genene was close to her younger brother, Travis. When he was 14, he put together a pipe bomb that blew up in his face, killing him. Genene was 16 at the time, and during the funeral, she screamed and fainted. Some believe this trauma fed her peculiar cruelty.
- ▼ Over a year after the death of Travis, her father died of terminal cancer. Genene was devastated and, though she hadn't yet finished high school.
- ▼ Decided to get married right away but her mom refused to give her permission and soon turned to bottle, getting drunk frequently.

- ▼ When Genene graduated, she married a high school dropout, James “Jimmy” Harvey DeLany Jr. Some claim that she trapped this man into marrying her by pretending she was pregnant. After a few months of marriage, he enlisted in the navy and she went after other men and she even had affairs with married men as if to fill the void left by her father’s untimely death. She began to spread rumors that she had been sexually abused as a child.
- ▼ Genene and Jimmy divorced after four years of marriage, and she indicated on her divorce papers that he had been violent with her.
- ▼ Soon after, Genene’s older brother died of cancer.

## Career

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- ▼ She had worked in a hospital beauty salon, she was also pregnant, but she ended up leaving them in the care of her adoptive mother.
- ▼ She trained for year to become a vocational nurse, and LVN or licensed vocational nurse.
- ▼ Got fired after only 8 months working at San Antonio’s Methodist Hospital when she tried to make decisions in areas where she had no authority, and she made rude demands on a patient who subsequently complained. But she didn’t last long in her new job either.
- ▼ Eventually she was hired in the intensive care section of the pediatric unit of Bexar County Medical Center Hospital. It was here that she would leave her mark – a tragic one.
- ▼ The first child she picked up had a fatal intestinal condition, and when he died shortly after surgery, she went crazy.

- ▼ Genevieve often skipped classes on the proper handling of drugs and in her first year made eight separate nursing errors, including while dispensing medication.
- ▼ She tried to bully new nurses into looking to her for help, and more than one nurse transferred out of the unit to get away from her.

## First Criminal Act

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- ▼ As she took charge, Genevieve grew more arrogant, aggressive and foul-mouthed. She liked to talk about her sexual conquests, both past and future. She would make harrowing predictions about which baby was going to die.
- ▼ In 1981, Jones demanded to be put in charge of the sickest patients. She seemed to thrive on the excitement of an emergency and even on grief when a child didn't make it. While she prepared a body, she would sing to it and she always wanted to take the corpse to the morgue.
- ▼ No one seemed concerned that many medications were freely available on that ward in an unlocked cabinet – not until later. It eventually became clear to everyone that children were dying in this unit from problems that shouldn't have been fatal. They claim there was one two-week period where seven children died but only when Genevieve was around. Those in the most critical condition were all under her care.
- ▼ She even seemed to enjoy calling parents to let them know about their child's death and to commiserate. If a child was near death, she always took a special interest. She clearly wanted to be there when it happened.
- ▼ Then a baby named Jose Antonio Flores, six months old, came in with some common childhood symptoms: fever, vomiting and diarrhea. While in Genevieve's care, he developed unexplained seizures and went into cardiac

arrest. Then she grabbed the dead baby and ran away, no one could figure out what her behavior meant, but blood testing on the body indicated an overdose of a drug called heparin, an anticoagulant. No one had ordered it, and her superiors became suspicious.

- ▼ And so many other cases... When Genevieve became aware that those who had always supported her were now suspicious, she turned to blackmail. She said she had records on every child that had died there and she knew which doctor had killed them.
  - ▼ Finally one more doctor stepped forward to tell the hospital administration that Genevieve Jones was killing children. He had found a manual in her possessions about how to inject heparin subcutaneously without leaving a mark, but the hospital resisted, however, not wanting bad press.
  - ▼ Another child was sent to the pediatric unit to recover from open-surgery. At first, he progressed well, but on Genevieve's shift, he came lethargic and he died.
  - ▼ More doctors complained and finally a committee was formed to look into the problem. Pat Belko and James Robotham were in charge. An outside team of investigators came in and determined that there was clearly a problem, but they declined to pin it on a single nurse. In the end, the committee decided to replace the LVNs on the unit with RNs, which meant that Genevieve would be transferred away from the babies. She reacted to this change by resigning. In their minds, that took care of the problem.
  - ▼ Death still moves on when she worked at another hospital...
  - ▼ At some point, Genevieve married a 19-year-old boy, possibly to deflect tabloid rumors that she was a lesbian. She was caught trying to flee with him.
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# Sentencing for Genene Jones

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- ▼ The Kerr County grand jury concluded first and indicted Jones on one count of murder in Kerr County, and several charges of injury to seven other children who had been injected with muscle-relaxing drugs. For these, she faced a possible sentence of 99 years and she was held in the Kerr County jail in lieu of a \$225,000 bond.
- ▼ Then in November, the San Antonio grand jury indicted her for injuring four-week-old boy. Jones remained a suspect in 10 other infant deaths at the hospital
- ▼ Yet her actions may actually have been inspired by a more mundane motive: she liked the excitement and the attention it brought her.
- ▼ In 1985, nurse Genene Jones was convicted of injecting babies with powerful drugs, killed somewhere between 1 and 46 infants and children in her care. She's earned time off for good behavior and, as a result, she's now set for release in 2018 and also she is set to go free because of a legal loophole.

**Genene Jones also known as "The Death Shift"**

## Differential-Association Theory

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I will consider this to be a Differential – Association Theory because this focused on how individuals learn to become criminal which Genene is. She learns how to commit criminal acts, motives, and attitudes. While her criminal behavior is an expression of general needs which is to grab people attention. She also enjoy others from suffering which makes her feel some kind of excitement.