



Community Action for
Substance Free Youth

substance free is where it's at

Connecticut Marijuana Law Penalties

Age 17 and under

Offense	Jurisdiction	Charge and Penalty
Possession of less than .5 oz. or possession of drug paraphernalia related to .5 oz or less of marijuana. (Possession can be anyplace, not just in a vehicle).	Juvenile Court, "delinquent act" Confidential	Infraction and subject to a commitment to DCF for up to 18 mo; can be extended another 18 mo. Required 60 day suspension of license or 150-day delay in receiving license

Ages 18-21

Possession of less than .5 oz. or possession of drug paraphernalia related to use of less than .5 oz. of marijuana. (Possession can be anyplace, not just in a vehicle.)	Adult Court, not confidential	Infraction and \$150 fine for first offense, \$200-\$500 for subsequent offense; required 60-day suspension of driver's license or 150-day delay in receiving license
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This is not "just" an infraction. The Department of Motor vehicles charges a fee of \$175 to reinstate a driver's license. Your family's auto insurance company will be notified, and your insurance policy may be cancelled or the cost will rise sharply. If you go to Court with a lawyer, you will pay a sizable retainer fee for the lawyer's services, usually thousands of dollars.

It is a **crime** to possess 0.5 oz or more. Possession of up to 4 oz. results in a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for no more than one year, or both; a subsequent offense results in a fine of up to \$3,000 or imprisonment for no more than 5 years, or both. Possession of more than 4 oz. results in a fine of up to \$2,000 or imprisonment for no more than five years or both; a subsequent offense results in a fine of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment for no more than 10 years, or both.

Synthetic Products and Salvia

All synthetic marijuana, bath salts, and salvia products are now **banned** in Connecticut and in the entire U.S. They may not be sold nor may someone be in possession of these products. The new and comprehensive regulations cover all the chemicals used to make these products so clever makers will no longer be able to claim that their products are “legal.” The Drug Enforcement Agency recently raided manufacturers located all over the country.

If you see any still for sale at convenience stores, gas stations, or anywhere, please call your local police and notify us at Lymes’ Youth Service Bureau, 860-434-7208.

These products are sold in small, colorful, foil packages. They carry names such as *Zero Gravity, Revolution III, Space Cadet Chronic, Half Baked, Mr. Happy, K2, Spice, Pep Spice, Spice Silver, Spice Gold, Spice Diamond, Smoke, Sence, Skunk, Yucatan Fire, Genie, Zohai*, etc. They are labeled “not for human consumption.” For information about harmful effects, see drugfree.org’s “Drug Guide.”

CT bill on marijuana for medical use: schools

The bill prohibits anyone under 18 from being a patient eligible for marijuana. It prohibits use on any public property, schools, school grounds, school buses, etc. Region 18’s policy prohibiting any marijuana possession remains in effect.

Marijuana Research Update:

Marijuana can be addictive. If use begins in adolescence, the dependence rate is 1 in 6; for adults the dependence rate is 1 in 9. (National Institute on Drug Abuse-NIDA)

Heavy (nearly daily) use of marijuana in adolescence also can lead to a reduction in intelligence, as marijuana affects centers in the brain for memory and learning. (Meier, M, et al. “Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife.” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 2012; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1206820109.)

CASFY: Community Action for Substance Free Youth

The Mission of Community Action for Substance Free Youth (CASFY) is:
Prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use among Lyme and Old Lyme youth by collaborating with the community to raise awareness, modify social norms, educate youth and adults, initiate policy change and promote healthy activities.