



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Connecticut Police Academy

GENERAL NOTICE 21-04

To: Chief Law Enforcement Officers, Training Officers, Protective Services, and Resident Troopers

From: Karen Boisvert
Police Academy Administrator

Date: July 26, 2021

Subject: **Guidance and clarification - Health Statement - Effects of Cannabis on young people requirement in accordance with Public Act 21-01, (SB No. 1201)**

Public Act 21-01, (SB No. 1201), An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis made changes to Connecticut General Statute 21a-279a(c) requiring a person eighteen years of age or older but under twenty-one who possesses a combination of cannabis or cannabis products, shall be required to view and sign a statement acknowledging the health effects of cannabis on young people. [Bill No. 1201 found here.](#)

General Notice 21-03 issued by this office on June 25th, 2021, advised departments that we were seeking further clarification on the statement requirement and recommended officers contact their local juvenile review board members or youth and family services or local school and health officials for further guidance.

This General Notice (21-04) is intended to provide clarification on the health statement form noted in General Notice 21-03. On July 2nd, 2021 the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch sent a memo to law enforcement agencies containing a draft statement form that acknowledges the health effects of cannabis young people. [Memo from Judicial Branch found here.](#)

It is recommended that departments use the Judicial Branch form titled "[Important Statement on the Effects of The Use of Cannabis \(Marijuana, Weed, Pot\)](#)" issued on July 2nd, 2021. The statement does not need to be filed with the court or with charging documents but is required that the issuing law enforcement agency retain a copy of the form for their records.

Please ensure that members of your agency are made aware of this form and the officer's responsibility to have a person eighteen years of age or older but under twenty-one years of age view and sign a statement acknowledging the health effects of cannabis on young people.

The statement form was created by the Judicial Branch in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. They utilized resources from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, including Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services; Know the Risk of Marijuana and The Surgeon General's Advisory; Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain.

For future reference all attachments and links can be found on the [POSTC website](#) (home page) under latest news and/or featured links.

Latest News

Featured Links

Questions or comments may be directed to my attention either by e-mail karen.boisvert@ct.gov or phone 203-427-2601.

References:

[Know the Risks of Marijuana | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana)
<https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>

[U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory: Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html)
<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>



JUDICIAL BRANCH
COURT OPERATIONS DIVISION
P.O. Box 1140
Hartford, CT 06143-1140

Stacey B. Manware, Esq.
Deputy Director
Superior Court Operations

(860) 263-2750

July 2, 2021

MEMO TO: Law Enforcement Agencies

SUBJECT: Changes Related to the Use of Cannabis

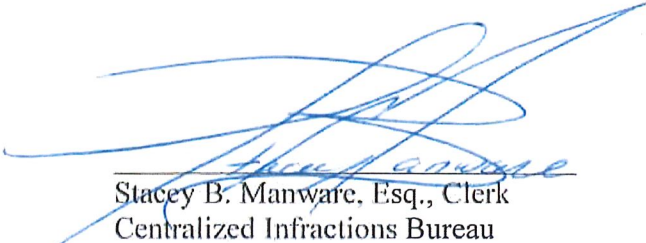
Please be advised that Spec. Sess. P.A. 21-1, signed by Gov. Lamont on June 22, 2021, made changes to statutes related to the use of cannabis. In addition to the repeal of several statutes, the Public Act created new juvenile provisions, misdemeanors and violations **effective July 1, 2021**.

The attached charts contain a list of these changes (sheet 1), as well as a list of repealed violations (sheet 2). Sheet 1 also contains details, among other things, regarding whether an offense is a misdemeanor or violation, the charging document and whether the signature of a health statement is required.

The fine amounts associated with the new violations represent a default fine set pursuant to General Statutes § 51-164m and are payable through the Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB). These fines are subject to change upon a vote of the judges of the Superior Court. You will receive notice of any change that is the result of such a vote.

Spec. Sess. P.A. 21-1 requires individuals charged with certain offenses identified on the attached spreadsheet (see health statement column) to view and sign a statement acknowledging the health effects of cannabis on young people. Attached for your use is such a statement. This statement **does not** need to be filed with the court or with the charging documents. It is recommended that the agency maintain the signed copy and provide a copy or unsigned version to the defendant.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at stacey.manware@jud.ct.gov.



Stacey B. Manware, Esq., Clerk
Centralized Infractions Bureau

IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON THE EFFECTS OF THE USE OF CANNABIS (MARIJUANA, WEED, POT)

Instructions:

For violations of Spec. Sess. P.A. 21-1 (c) and its subparts individuals who are 18 or older and younger than 21 are required to view and sign a statement acknowledging the health effects of cannabis on young people. This statement **does not** need to be filed with the court or with the charging documents. It is recommended that the agency maintain the signed copy and provide a copy or unsigned version to the defendant.

The risks related to the use of cannabis (marijuana, weed, pot), as explained by the U.S. Surgeon General and/or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, include the following:

Driving: People who drive under the influence of cannabis can experience dangerous effects such as slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination, and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road.

Athletic Performance: Research shows that cannabis affects timing, movement, and coordination, which can harm athletic performance.

Baby's health and development: Cannabis use during pregnancy may cause fetal growth restriction, premature birth, stillbirth, and problems with brain development, resulting in hyperactivity and poor cognitive function.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and other chemicals from cannabis can also be passed from a mother to her baby through breast milk, further impacting a child's healthy development.

Mental health: Studies link cannabis use to depression, anxiety, suicidal behavior, and potential psychotic episodes. The earlier you start to use cannabis, especially before the age of 18, the more likely you are to have problems such as addiction, withdrawals, and other drug use.

Brain health: Cannabis can lower your IQ as much as 8 points when people start using it at a young age. These IQ points do not come back, even after quitting cannabis. Use of cannabis during the period of brain development (to about 25 years old) can cause issues with attention, memory, and learning. It can change how your brain processes and stores information.

Lung health: Cannabis smoke, like tobacco smoke, irritates the throat and lungs and contains levels of chemicals and tar similar to tobacco.

Daily life: Using cannabis can affect performance and how well people do in life. Research shows that people who use cannabis are more likely to have relationship problems, worse educational outcomes, lower career achievement, and reduced life satisfaction.

References:

<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>

I have viewed this statement and acknowledge the health effects of cannabis.

_____(Signature of person receiving Complaint)

_____(Date)