

TREMBLE BEFORE THE TENTACLES OF TERROR!

# IT'S THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT

THE MONSTER WITH THE TRIPLE JAWS OF JUSTICE... JUST GOT MEANER

The Misuse of Drugs Act (MoDA) is an act of parliament that makes it a criminal offence to 'possess', make, sell or give away certain drugs, known as controlled drugs. The law splits these drugs into three groups when deciding on punishment. Class A drugs are thought to be the most harmful and have the harshest punishments, while class C drugs are regarded as the least harmful and have the lightest penalties.

**Methamphetamine**  
was made a class A drug in 2007

**Cocaine and Crack**  
Cocaine is a class A drug. Crack is just smokeable cocaine

**Magic Mushrooms**  
- all mushrooms containing Psilocin are class A drugs what ever form they are in (fresh, dried etc)

**Speed (Amphetamine Sulphate)**  
is still a class B drug. Any class B drug prepared for injecting counts as class A.

**Anabolic Steroids**  
Steroids and some similar drugs are class C. Possession of medicinal steroids is not an offence (though possession of illegally manufactured steroids is). Selling or giving away steroids is an offence.

**Cannabis**  
will be reclassified and become a class B drug again in 2009

**GHB and Ketamine**  
both these have been made class C drugs.

**Buprenorphine (Subutex & Suboxone)**  
are opiates used to wean addicts off heroin, and are Class C drugs

**Tranquillisers & Sleeping pills**  
Tranquillisers (like Valium and Ativan) and some sleeping pills (eg. zolpidem, temazepam) are Class C drugs - so possession is illegal unless you have them on prescription from a doctor

IT WAS CREATED TO PROTECT US - BUT THERE IS NO PROTECTION FROM IT

## BEWARE THE WRATH OF MoDA

Although the use of cannabis has declined the number of people caught by the police has increased dramatically.

### Possession

Possession means that the police catch you with a 'small' amount of a controlled drug in your coat, pocket, bag, house, car etc. The police have to physically find something, they cannot take samples of your blood urine or saliva to prove possession.

### Possession with 'Intent to Supply'

If the police find a 'large' amount of drugs on you, they may think that you were planning to sell them or give them away. This is called 'possession with intent to supply'. This means you are being charged with drug-dealing, which is treated much more seriously and often results in a prison sentence.

### Supply

If the police think that they can prove you actually sold or gave drugs to someone else, you could be charged with 'supplying controlled drugs'.

### Supplying friends

Most young people get drugs from friends not from drug dealers. Buying enough drugs for yourself and your mates to save money is common practice. Social supply as this is called, is something the courts can take into account, but it is still legally no different from drug dealing (even if you make no money from it) and it is up to you to prove you were just supplying friends if you are caught.

### Growing cannabis

It is not an offence to supply or possess cannabis seeds, but it is an offence to grow cannabis plants. It is also an offence to allow somebody to smoke cannabis or opium in your house.

**Cannabis will go back to being a class B drug in early 2009.**

In October 2008, the police introduced a new 3-stage procedure for dealing with adults found in possession of cannabis: a Cannabis Warning (confiscation and verbal warning) for the first offence; an £80 spot-fine for the second offence; and arrest and prosecution in court for third and subsequent offences (where the most likely sentence is a fine or discharge). However, under-18s are likely to be arrested, and given a Reprimand or/ Final Warning for the first offence.



for more information and advice contact: