

## THE LAW: MINORS AND MARIJUANA

- It is illegal for people under 21 years old to possess or consume marijuana.
- It is a felony for adults to provide marijuana to people under the age of 21, including their own children.
- It is illegal for anyone to drive under the influence of marijuana, but the law with respect to those under 21 is zero tolerance.
- It is illegal to use marijuana in public.
- Underage use of marijuana is a misdemeanor offense and punishable with a charge of *Minor in Possession*.
- Possession of larger amounts of marijuana (more than 40 grams) is a Class C Felony.

Source: Washington State Liquor Control Board

## WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP AND INFORMATION

Youth Eastside Services provides convenient and affordable access in our offices and some schools.

We offer:

- Classes for parents/youth on effects of marijuana, signs and symptoms of use, and progressions of use
- Marijuana assessment to determine what kind of help your teens may need.
- Individual and/or group therapy
- Parent education and support groups
- Outreach staff to speak to groups

### Online resources

- [learnaboutmarijuanawa.org](http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org)
- [drugabuse.org](http://drugabuse.org)
- [drugfree.org](http://drugfree.org)

### 24-Hour Recovery Helpline

1.866.789.1511

Find more details and resources at [youtheastsideservices.org](http://youtheastsideservices.org) or call **425.747.4937**.

Youth Eastside Services  
999 164th Avenue NE  
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[youtheastsideservices.org](http://youtheastsideservices.org)

**A Lifeline for Kids & Families**



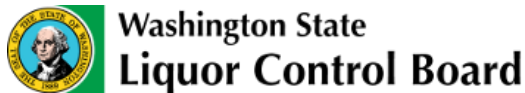
## MARIJUANA LEGAL?

**NOT for Teens**

## MARIJUANA SAFE?

**NOT for Teens**

- Effects on the teen brain
- Help your teen make good decisions
- Signs and symptoms of use
- Legal and social consequences
- The law: minors and marijuana
- Where to turn for help and information



## MARIJUANA & THE TEEN BRAIN

- Marijuana, whether smoked, “vaped” or consumed as “edibles” acts as a psychoactive mood altering drug with distinct effects on the brain.

*Inhaling any kind of smoke damages your lungs. Edible marijuana can be dangerous due to delayed effects from ingesting large doses.*

- The potency of THC in marijuana is 4 to 5 times stronger than in the 1960s and 1970s.

*Brain development is active through one's mid-20s. A developing brain is a vulnerable brain!*

- Marijuana can be habit forming. Teens are especially at risk. Adolescents who start using before ages 14-15 are four times more likely to become addicted and/or have lifelong substance use-disorders.

*Early marijuana use is linked to increased mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, psychosis and schizophrenia, especially for those with a family history of these illnesses.*

- Using marijuana at an early age is associated with:
  - *Poor school performance*
  - *Increased school absences*
  - *Increased risk of dropping out*
  - *Increased risk-taking behaviors*
  - *Increased negative outcomes over lifetime*
- Marijuana use impacts the brain and can cause problems with memory, learning motivation and decreased IQ.

## HELP YOUR TEENS MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

- Make it clear you don't want your teens using marijuana
- Help your teens understand the consequences of using
- Get to know your teens' friends and their parents
- Make it easy for your teens to leave a situation where marijuana is being used (e.g., assure no punishment, offer a ride home)
- Encourage open dialogue with your teens about their experiences
- Practice ways to avoid or say no to using marijuana
- Know your teens' activities and their whereabouts

## POSSIBLE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF MARIJUANA USE

- New, different friends
- Away from home more often than usual
- Loss of interest in family or school activities and sports
- Lower grades, attendance problems
- Chronic lying, hostility, withdrawal
- Sprays cologne, perfume or other scents to cover up the smell
- Significant change in mood

Find more details and resources at [youtheastideservices.org](http://youtheastideservices.org) or call 425.747.4937.



## LEGAL & SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF MARIJUANA ABUSE

- Possible arrest or being charged with *Minor in Possession* if caught with marijuana, hashish, hashish oil or paraphernalia containing remnants of these substances, leading to:
  - *Diversion*
  - *Probation*
  - *Drug court*
  - *Court-ordered treatment*
  - *Legal issues could include large fines, jail time, loss of driver's license*
- Teens found in possession of, under the influence of, transporting or selling marijuana on campus can face:
  - *long-term suspension*
  - *emergency expulsion*
  - *notification to police*
  - *expulsion from athletics*
  - *difficulty getting into college*
- Inability to get a job
- Loss of family or social relationships