

Illegal Drugs

Details

Last Updated: Wednesday, 26 November 2014 18:54

May 2011

These notes are to assist visitors in supporting their clients by providing advice and information about the possession and dealing of drugs. Some clients may not be aware of how serious the implications of being involved or even close to drugs are in the UK. This will be particularly the case if their own country does not have a drug problem or takes a different view on drugs. A great deal of information is available at <http://www.talktofrank.com/>

Advice

When appropriate make your client aware that any involvement with drugs is taken very seriously in this country and will result in severe penalties for those involved

1. When appropriate make your client aware that any involvement with drugs is taken very seriously in this country and will result in severe penalties for those involved

2. Emphasise that SWVG cannot support those involved in drugs. Those on ASSIST support have signed an agreement to that effect - we do not have the professional skills to handle drug related problems. Our guidelines are as follows:

- Those with a drug habit we would refer to a professional agency
- Those involved in drug dealing we would have to, by law, report to the police.
- The reason for this firm approach is that any support would put SWVG at risk as a reputable charity and as a result donors would be very unlikely to continue to provide the money that we need.

3. Advise clients to keep well away from drug related activities because:

- They risk being accused as an accessory even if they are not guilty
- Police raids are very thorough. Police will ask questions of anyone close and may involve UKBA, with the risk of detention/ deportation.
- Police in Southampton have been particularly active with respect to drugs (is this still the case?)

Some clients may be tempted to make money through drugs, particularly if they are destitute. However the implications for them and the effects on others, especially their friends, family and SWVG, make it imperative that they steer clear of any drug related involvement.

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group *Working with asylum seekers and refugees*

Patrons: Miriam Margolyes OBE, John Pilkington, Dr Shirley Firth **Registered charity:** 1103093

SWVG P O Box 1615 Southampton, SO17 3WF

Email: admin@swvg-refugees.org.uk **Telephone:** 0750 317 6350 **Web:** www.swvg-refugees.org.uk

Information

This website provides information about the penalties for possession and dealing in drugs:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/drug-law/>

It is worth noting that cannabis, which was briefly classified as a Class C drug, has been reclassified as Class B in January 2009. Taking cannabis to illustrate the UK approach to drugs, the current penalty for possession of cannabis is up to five years imprisonment and the maximum penalty for dealing is 14 years.

The table below explains how drugs are classified in the UK, with Class A containing those that can cause the most serious harm. It also sets out the penalties for possession and dealing drugs in each category.

		Possession:	Dealing:
Class A	Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms, amphetamines (if prepared for injection).	Up to seven years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to life in prison or an unlimited fine or both.
Class B	Amphetamines, Cannabis, Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Pholcodine.	Up to five years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.
Class C	Tranquilisers, some painkillers, Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Ketamine.	Up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group *Working with asylum seekers and refugees*
Patrons: Miriam Margolyes OBE, John Pilkington, Dr Shirley Firth **Registered charity:** 1103093

SWVG P O Box 1615 Southampton, SO17 3WF

Email: admin@swvg-refugees.org.uk **Telephone:** 0750 317 6350 **Web:** www.swvg-refugees.org.uk



Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group *Working with asylum seekers and refugees*
Patrons: Miriam Margolyes OBE, John Pilkington, Dr Shirley Firth **Registered charity:** 1103093

SWVG P O Box 1615 Southampton, SO17 3WF
Email: admin@swvg-refugees.org.uk **Telephone:** 0750 317 6350 **Web:** www.swvg-refugees.org.uk