

What this means for you

What happens to you if you commit an offence will depend on the circumstances such as whether it's your first offence and how serious it is.

For instance, supplying your friends with a Class A drug is more serious than possessing a small amount of a Class C drug for personal use.

If you are under 18

If it is a less serious offence you will be arrested and taken to the police station, your drugs will be confiscated and you will be given a reprimand or warning.

If it is not your first offence, or the offence is more serious, you are much more likely to end up in court.

If you are 18 or over

If it is a less serious offence, you may not be arrested. The police will confiscate the drug and give you a warning.

If it is not your first offence, or the offence is more serious, you are much more likely to end up in court.

Going to court

If you are found guilty of a less serious offence, you may be fined or given a community sentence (which could include getting help for a drug problem). For more serious offences, such as dealing, you could be sent to prison or a young offenders institution.

Need more info? Talk to FRANK

If you'd like friendly, helpful advice about how drugs can affect you, or if you or someone you care about has a drug problem, call 0800 77 66 00 or visit talktofrank.com.

What the
law says...
...and what
this means
for you

DRUGS

FRANK

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The law puts illegal drugs into three classes: **A, B and C** – according to the harm that they can do to you with Class A being the most harmful.

The law regards dealing in drugs, including possession with intent to supply, as being a more serious offence than possession for personal use.

Class A

What the law says about Class A drugs

Class A drugs include cocaine, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD and magic mushrooms.

It's illegal to have, give away or to deal in Class A drugs. Possession with intent to supply is also illegal.

Offences under Class A are the most serious and carry the heaviest penalties.

Maximum penalties under the law

Possession

7 years in jail plus an unlimited fine.

Supplying/dealing

Life imprisonment plus an unlimited fine.

Possession with intent to supply

Life imprisonment plus an unlimited fine.

"Going to court was really stressful, it was a bad time for me. The conviction screwed up my plans to go to New York." Sean, 21

Class B

What the law says about Class B drugs

Class B drugs include speed (amphetamines).

The law treats any Class B drug that's prepared for injection as a Class A drug.

It's illegal to have, give away or to deal in Class B drugs. Possession with intent to supply is also illegal.

Maximum penalties under the law

Possession

5 years in jail plus an unlimited fine.

Supplying/dealing

14 years in jail plus an unlimited fine.

Possession with intent to supply

14 years in jail plus an unlimited fine.

"I got done. I had no idea when I applied for a job that I might have to tell them about my drugs conviction." Rick, 22

Class C

What the law says about Class C drugs

Class C drugs include cannabis, GHB, anabolic steroids and tranquillisers such as Valium.

It's illegal to have, give away or to deal in Class C drugs. Possession with intent to supply is also illegal. And so is growing cannabis plants. Possession of anabolic steroids for personal use is legal in certain circumstances.

Maximum penalties under the law

Possession

2 years in jail plus an unlimited fine.

Supplying/dealing

14 years in jail plus an unlimited fine.

Possession with intent to supply

14 years in jail plus an unlimited fine.

"My mum had to pick me up from the police station. I felt bad because she was really upset." Louise, 17