

Law of the Workplace

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CLIENT ALERT

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS

Known as “K2” and “Spice”, synthetic marijuana is the substance responsible for a recent surge in emergency room visits among teenagers and people in their early 20s. This treacherous new drug is now appearing in Connecticut schools.

K2 was recently described in a Hartford Courant article as “much more dangerous” than natural marijuana, capable of producing negative reactions closer to those caused by cocaine and other powerful stimulants. Yet, unlike cocaine or natural marijuana, K2 and spice are still legal and may be purchased both online and in various convenience marts and gas stations around the state. While the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has announced it will be placing synthetic marijuana under a 12-month ban, this temporary measure is yet to be implemented.

Health risks aside, synthetic marijuana is posing a unique challenge to school administrators across the state: Many schools’ disciplinary policies cover only illegal drugs, controlled substances, and alcohol, making disciplining of students caught with this dangerous substance difficult, if not impossible.

Therefore, it is recommended that Connecticut schools consider amending their disciplinary language to address the new issue of synthetic marijuana. Furthermore, faculty members should familiarize themselves with the symptoms of K2 and Spice usage, which can be distinctive from symptoms of traditional marijuana.

For assistance in drafting a comprehensive disciplinary policy that includes language addressing synthetic marijuana usage, please contact the attorneys at Siegel O’Connor O’Donnell and Beck, P.C.

This material is intended to provide you with information regarding a noteworthy legal development. It should not be regarded as a substitute for legal advice concerning specific situations in your operation. If you have any questions or would like additional information on this topic, please contact our Firm at (860) 727-8900 or www.siegelconnor.com.



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