



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

LEGAL UPDATE

No. 97

June 19, 2012

This update is published by the Michigan State Police, Office of the Director, Legal Resource and Education Unit. Questions and comments may be directed to MSPLegal@michigan.gov. Past editions can be found at www.michigan.gov/msp-legal.

CRIMINAL LAW

Common chemical compounds found in synthetic cannabinoids (K2/Spice) and synthetic cathinones (Bath Salts/Plant Food) added to list of Schedule 1 controlled substances.

Public Acts 180-183 of 2012 amended MCL 333.7212 and added MCL 333.7417 to the Public Health Code. [MCL 333.7212](#) was amended to include the common chemical compounds and structures found in synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones to the list of Schedule 1 controlled substances.

- MCL 333.7401 – manufacture, delivery, or possession with the intent to deliver is a 7-year felony.
- MCL 333.7403 – possession is a 2-year felony.
- MCL 333.7404 – use is a one-year misdemeanor.

Synthetic cannabinoids, commonly known as “synthetic marijuana,” “K2,” or “Spice,” are marketed as “herbal incense,” “herbal smoking blends,” “incense,” or “potpourri” and are regularly distributed in small packages containing a mixture of herbs and plant material. These products are usually smoked by users and when consumed, allegedly mimic the effects of marijuana. Use of these products has been linked to violent behavior, seizures, elevated heart rates, anxiety attacks, hallucinations, and death.

Common brand names include Black Mamba, Blaze, Chronic Spice, Dead Man Walking, Earthquake, K2, K2 Summit, K3, K3 Legal, Kush, Mr. Nice Guy, Mystery, Pulse, Red X Dawn, Skunk, Spice, Spice Gold, Spicylicious, Yucatan Fire, and Zohai.

Synthetic cathinones are marketed as “bath salts” and “plant food” and are regularly

distributed in powder, crystal, and liquid form in small packages and plastic containers. These products are typically ingested, inhaled, injected, smoked, or snorted and when consumed, allegedly mimic the effects of cocaine and methamphetamine. Use of these products has been linked to violent behavior, agitation, paranoia, hallucinations, chest pain, seizures, and death.

Common brand names include Aura, Bliss, Blow, Blue Silk, Bubble Love, Charge+, Cloud 9, Cosmic Blast, FrogE Magic Plant Food, Hurricane Charlie, Ivory Snow, Ivory Wave, MDAI, MDPV, Molly’s Plant Food, Ocean Burst, Rave, Red Dove, Scarface, Serenity, Sonic, Vanilla Sky, White Dove, and White Lightning.

Synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones are generally sold in gas stations, convenience stores, head shops, novelty shops in packages and containers often marked “not for human consumption.”

MCL 333.7417 was added to prohibit a person who knows that a named product contains or previously contained a Schedule 1 controlled substance from selling or offering to sell any other product while representing that it contains an ingredient that produces the same or similar effect as that Schedule 1 ingredient. Violation is a 4-year felony. “Named product” means either of the following:

- A product having a designated brand name.
- A product having a street or common name with application sufficient to identify the product as a specific product within Michigan or a local unit of government.

Officers are reminded that a search warrant is required to conduct a search or seizure unless the search or seizure falls under one of the recognized exceptions to the search warrant rule.