

Drugs Offences

Drugs that are illegal are described as controlled drugs. They fall into 3 classes, A, B and C depending on the nature of the particular drug, with A being the most serious. There are various offences relating to controlled drugs, the main categories of which are below.

Possession

If a person knowingly has a controlled drug in their possession then they are guilty of this offence. They can still be guilty of the offence of possession if they knew that they had the item in their possession but did not realise that it was a controlled drug. For example, if a person knows they are in possession of a bag of white powder, believing it to be flour or sugar, and it turns out to be cocaine they will still be guilty of this offence.

Possession with Intent to Supply

If a person is in possession of a controlled drug and intends to pass those drugs onto someone then they are guilty of this offence. This does not have to be in exchange for anything, such as money. For example, if they are looking after drugs for someone else which they intend to return, then they will be guilty of this offence.

Supply

If a person actually passes the controlled drugs onto another then they are guilty of this offence. For example, if someone is smoking a joint and hands it to a friend for them to share, they will be guilty of this offence.

Being Concerned in Supply

If a person is somehow involved in the supply of drugs to someone else but may not be the person who has physically handed them over, then they are guilty of this offence. For example, if someone gives a lift to a friend, knowing that friend is delivering drugs, then they will be guilty of this offence.

Cultivation

If a person makes drugs they will be guilty of this offence. The most common example of this is growing cannabis plants at home.

Allowing premises to be used

If a person allows their home to be used by other people to take drugs, then they will be guilty of this offence. For example, if a person turns a blind eye when knowing a friend

has disappeared to use the person's bathroom to take drugs, then they will be guilty of this offence