



### Marijuana and the teen brain:

- Changes to the brain's structure (including size and how areas are connected)
- Lower quality of brain connections
- Less blood flow to parts of the brain
- Marijuana use has been linked to lower IQ scores as well as poorer memory and attention.

### Addiction:

- Nearly one in 10 marijuana users will become addicted.
- People who frequently use marijuana often report withdrawal symptoms.
- Starting to use marijuana at a younger age can lead to a greater risk of developing a substance use disorder later in life.
- Adolescents who begin using marijuana before age 18 are four to seven times more likely than adults to develop a marijuana use disorder.

The above facts were sourced from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

## Who We Are

The prime function of the Ridgefield Police Department is to protect life, liberty and property, to preserve the peace and public order, to prevent and repress crime, to detect violations of Law and to apprehend violators and prosecute those apprehended.



## Contact Us

Phone: (203) 438-6531 General Information / Report an Incident / Request Assistance / Make a Complaint - 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Records Department (you may also leave a Voice Mail message in off-hours):  
(203) 431-2791 - Monday - Friday: 8 am to 3:30 pm.

Anonymous Tip Hotline (confidential)  
(203) 431-2345

Fax: (203) 431-2741

## POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA BY JUVENILES

APPLYING THE NEW MARIJUANA  
LAW TO JUVENILE CASES

## RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



**RIDGEFIELD POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**  
76 East Ridge Rd  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

- **Generally:**

Public Act 11-71 was intended to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana as well as the possession of drug paraphernalia for use with small amounts of marijuana, presumably for personal use. What the Act did was to create two new offenses:

1. The possession of under  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of marijuana, which is a violation; and
2. The possession of drug paraphernalia for use with under  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of marijuana, which is an infraction.

While the Act decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana and the possession of drug paraphernalia for use with small amounts of marijuana for adults, it didn't have any significant impact on children who commit those offenses. In both cases, an adult, a person over the age of 18, would only pay a fine and not face any period of incarceration. Since the juvenile court does not impose fines, these new offenses would be classified as "delinquent acts"

Summary	Statute	Penalty
The possession of under $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of marijuana, which is a violation  and  The possession of drug paraphernalia for use with under $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of marijuana	CGS §21a-279a  CGS §21a-267(d)	The maximum penalty for a child, a person under the age of 18, would be a commitment to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for an indeterminate period up to 18 months, with a possible extension for another 18 months if the court found that such extension would be the best interest of the child or the community.

- **Motor vehicle consequences:**

The Act also amended CGS §14-111e and provided for sanctions to be imposed by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when a person under the age of 21 is convicted of either of the new offenses created by the Act.

1. For licensed operators under the age of 21, their license will be suspended for a period of 60 days.
2. For an unlicensed person under the age of 21, their ability to get a license will be delayed until a period of 150 days has elapsed from the date all applicable requirements for any such license have been satisfied by the applicant.