

Order Banning “Bath Salts” in New Jersey

It has come to the attention of the College that on April 26, 2011, under the authority of the New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, the Acting Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, signed an Order banning the manufacture, distribution, sale, and possession of designer drugs commonly labeled as “bath salts.” New Jersey's ban took effect on Wednesday, April 27. The order classifies six chemicals as Schedule I Controlled Dangerous Substances under New Jersey's CDS Act, thereby subjecting them to the strictest level of state control. **Manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession is now a third-degree crime, subject to fines of up to \$25,000 and three- to five-years imprisonment.**

The specific chemicals added to the list of Controlled Dangerous Substances are:

- 3,4 – Methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV)**
- _ 4 – Methylmethcathinone (Mephedrone, 4-MMC)**
- _ 3,4 – Methylenedioxymethcathinone (Methylone, MDMC)**
- _ 4 – Fluoromethcathinone (Flephedrone, 4-FMC)**
- _ 3 – Fluoromethcathinone (3-FMC)**
- 4 – Methoxymethcathinone (Methedrone, bk-PMMA, PMMC)**

Note that a public hearing will be held **Monday, July 11, 2011 at 10 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101**, a necessary step to make permanent New Jersey's ban on these designer drugs which are often times labeled as “bath salts.” The July 11 hearing, at which members of the public will be encouraged to speak or submit written testimony, is part of the administrative process of adopting a regulation.

New Jersey is believed to be the third state in the nation to take expedited administrative action banning all six chemicals used in these designer drugs. The April 27 order was enacted in an expedited manner to stop an imminent threat to health and public safety. It will remain **in effect 270 days after being signed, or until the Acting Director adopts a regulation to make the ban permanent.**

Designer drugs commonly labeled as “bath salts” have been sold in New Jersey, at retail establishments such as gas stations, smoke shops, “head shops” that specialize in drug paraphernalia, and other locations. They are also widely available for sale online. They are sold in small, approximately 500-milligram bags or containers for approximately \$20 to \$60 each, with brand names such as “Energizing Aromatherapy,” “Down2Earth White Horse,” “Kamikaze,” “Ivory Wave,” “Purple Wave,” “Red Dove,” “Blue Silk,” “Vanilla Sky,” and many others.

They are falsely labeled as “bath salts,” “plant food,” or other innocuous substances, and often marked “Not For Human Consumption,” in order to hide from law enforcement the drugs’ true purpose – to get users high. What users may not know is that the drugs have serious and intense side effects. Their use has led to suicidal thoughts, self-mutilation, and violent outbursts. The drugs are reported to be highly addictive. Psychological side effects include extreme anxiety and paranoia, delusional thinking, and visual and auditory hallucinations.

For more information go to the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs website:

www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/bathsalts