

## **Is it legal for people to smoke cannabis if it's in their own home?**

Simply, no. Cannabis, marijuana or weed is classified as a Class B drug, putting it in the same category as ketamine and amphetamine. Just because someone is using the drug within their own premises doesn't make it legal.

The pungent, slightly floral smell of someone smoking cannabis is often hard to disguise and most people won't want the stench creeping over into their gardens or homes.

## **Cannabis Farms**

Cannabis farms are very dangerous places and pose a serious risk of fire. Often the electricity meter has been bypassed and seriously overloaded electrical circuits run close to water-filled pipes. Plants grown upstairs in a building can also cause floorboards to rot, presenting the danger of collapse.

Every cannabis farm we destroy helps prevent a vicious circle. The plants won't end up as street deals, the profits won't go on to fund other crime, and they won't ruin lives or pollute our communities.

## **How to report Cannabis offences:**

In an emergency phone 999

For non-emergency situations call 101 or report online at <https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/>

You can also report crime anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers by phoning 0800 555111 or by visiting [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) and completing the online form

# How Police Deal With Cannabis Possession

## Adults (18+) In Possession Of Cannabis – 3 stage process

Section 5 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 prohibits possession. If caught in possession of cannabis, as well as considering arrest and confiscating the drug, police are likely to:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offence** - Give a cannabis warning for a first offence of possession – this is a written warning that does not show up on the PCN and should not show on CRB checks often carried out by employers.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offence** - Give a Penalty Notice for Disorder – this is an on-the-spot fine of **£90** for a second offence. You must pay this within 14 days or face going to court.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offence** - make an arrest if it is the third offence of having been caught with cannabis or if it is over a certain weight – this could lead to conviction in court and a criminal record.

If the offender is under 18 or there are circumstances that make the offence aggravated then it will be dealt with by the offender being arrested.

## Types of drugs

The maximum penalties for drug possession, supply (selling, dealing or sharing) and production depend on what type or 'class' the drug is.

	Drug	Possession	Supply and production
<b>Class A</b>	Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth)	Up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both
<b>Class B</b>	Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, ketamine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (for example mephedrone, methoxetamine)	Up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
<b>Class C</b>	Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), piperazines (BZP), khat	Up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both (except anabolic steroids - it's not an offence to possess them for personal use)	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both

The UK government's definition of domestic violence is 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.'

Domestic abuse can take different forms, including:

physical abuse

sexual abuse

financial abuse

coercive control / emotional abuse

digital / online abuse

honour-based violence

forced marriage

female genital mutilation (FGM).

In 2018 police recorded 464,886 cases of domestic abuse in England and Wales — an increase of 10% on the previous year (ONS Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending March 2017).

13.6% of men and 26.3% of women aged 16 to 59 have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16.

In the first quarter of 2020 - covering the first lockdown - domestic abuse accounted for 52% of the CPS out of hours workload. This crime occurs amongst people of all backgrounds and ages. Although mostly committed by men against women, victims can also be male and abuse happens within same-sex relationships.

Domestic abuse does not always have to be physical to be prosecuted - sometimes victims may not even be aware it is happening. It can include any behaviour deployed by an offender to obtain control or power over another, and we recognise that emotional abuse can be just as harmful as physical violence.

## How we can help straight away

Our officers will make sure that all victims are dealt with respectfully and spoken to away from the person responsible for the abuse. Physical injuries will be dealt with as a priority.

## Staying in touch

We'll stay in contact with victims through the whole investigation. Starting within 24 hours of the first report.

We also give a dedicated phone number, so victims can call us directly to find out how their case is going or talk about anything that might be worrying them.

In many cases, victims of domestic abuse require temporary or longer-term housing alternatives. It may be that they need an injunction to prevent the perpetrator approaching them, or perhaps need counselling or support.

We work alongside highly trained non-police advisers who can assist with aftercare for victims and their family.

If they need to attend court for any reason there are also support services available so that you don't feel overwhelmed or alienated by the legal process.

The scheme is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend George Appleton in 2009. Clare had met Appleton online and she was not aware of his history of violence against women, including repeated harassment, threats and the kidnapping at knifepoint of one of his ex-partners. Appleton strangled Clare and set her on fire before taking his own life in Salford, Greater Manchester. The resulting coroner's inquest in 2011 recommended "consideration should be given to the disclosure of such convictions and their circumstances to potential victim in order that they can make informed choices about matters affecting their safety and that of their children."

**Right To Ask** gives members of the public a right to ask police where they have a concern that their partner or former partner may pose a risk to them, or where they're concerned that the partner of someone they know poses a risk to that individual.

**Right to Know** gives police and partner agencies the right to provide information to an individual when there is risk from a partner (or former partner) and there's a need for them to know this where they may be unaware they are at risk.

The Domestic Violence One Stop Shop offers free confidential advice and support on Wednesdays, 9.30am-11.30am at Sutton Baptist Church, 21 Cheam Road, Sutton, SM1 1SN.  
020 7801 1777

It is staffed by Police officers from the community safety unit who specialise in domestic violence cases. There are also solicitors who give free and independent legal advice who have expertise in the relevant legislation and the process of restraining orders.

There are also domestic violence support workers who are independent from the police force.

No appointment is needed for this service.

## National helplines

### Domestic Violence Assist

Specialises in assistance to obtain emergency injunctions from being further abused.

Phone: 0800 195 8699

### National Centre for Domestic Violence

Specialises in assistance to get emergency injunctions from being further abused.

Phone: 0800 970 2070

### Women's Aid Domestic Violence Helpline

Free 24-hour national helpline run by Women's Aid and Refuge.

Phone: 0808 2000 247

### Hourglass

The Hourglass confidential helpline provides information and support to anyone concerned about harm, abuse or exploitation of an older person.

Phone: 0808 808 8141

### Men's Advice Line

Confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse.

Phone: 0808 801 0327

### National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline

Emotional and practical support for LGBT+ people.

Phone: 0800 999 5428

### National Stalking Helpline

Guidance on the law, how to report stalking, gathering evidence, staying safe and reducing the risk.

Phone: 0808 802 0300

### Victim Support

Free and confidential help to victims of crime, witnesses, their family and friends.

Phone: 0808 1689 111

In an emergency phone 999, or you can report crime at your local police station, via 101 or online at <https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/>

# Contact your local SNT



## Wandle Valley SNT

Nearest police station:  
Sutton Police Station,  
Carshalton Road,  
Sutton, SM1 4RF

SNMailbox.WandleValleySNT  
@met.police.uk

0208 721 2773

@MPSWandleValley

@metpoliceuk

Facebook.com/metpoliceuk

For crime prevention advice visit  
[www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention)

To report a crime visit [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)  
or call **101**.

In an emergency always dial **999**.



## St. Helier SNT

Nearest police station:  
Sutton Police Station,  
Carshalton Road,  
Sutton, SM1 4RF

SNMailbox.StHelierSNT  
@met.police.uk

0208 649 3591

@metpoliceuk

Facebook.com/metpoliceuk

For crime prevention advice visit  
[www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention)

To report a crime visit [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)  
or call **101**.

In an emergency always dial **999**.



## The Wrythe SNT

Nearest police station:  
Sutton Police Station,  
Carshalton Road,  
Sutton, SM1 4RF

SNMailbox.TheWrytheSNT  
@met.police.uk

07920 233 866

@metpoliceuk

Facebook.com/metpoliceuk

For crime prevention advice visit  
[www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention)

To report a crime visit [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)  
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SNMailbox.WandleValleySNT@met.police.uk

SNMailbox.StHelierSNT@met.police.uk

SNMailbox.TheWrytheSNT@met.police.uk

**Sergeant Greg Rainey 2102SN - greg.J.Rainey@met.police.uk**

**Sutton Borough**