



Statement on the Use of Marijuana

Although the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by the passage of Ballot Question 3 in 2012, created state legislation allowing the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes and, by the passage of Ballot Question 4 in 2016, created a commission to regulate the general use of marijuana in the Commonwealth, Stonehill College does not allow the use or possession of marijuana on its campus, or at any location, event, or activity sponsored or controlled by the College.

The Massachusetts law concerning medical marijuana, while allowing the use and possession of marijuana in certain circumstances by individuals who are suffering from a “debilitating medical condition” and who possess a state-authorized “registration card,” also provides the following limitations:

1. health insurance providers are not required to reimburse any employee or health-care provider for the expenses of the medical use of marijuana;
2. health care professionals are not required to authorize the use of medical marijuana for a patient;
3. employers, schools, and public places are not required to allow on-site medical use of marijuana; and
4. no person or entity is required to violate federal law, nor is any person or entity immune from federal prosecution.

The Massachusetts law concerning the general use of marijuana, which has an effective date of December 15, 2016 authorizes the possession, by a person at least 21 years old, of up to one ounce of marijuana outside of their residence and up to 10 ounces of marijuana inside their residence.

However, Stonehill complies with the **Federal** Drug Free Schools and Communities Act by prohibiting the use of controlled substances, including marijuana. The College online catalog provides the following within its “Legal Notices” section: “Stonehill College, in accordance with federal legislation and College policy, is committed to providing a drug-free, healthy and safe environment for all students, faculty and staff. The unlawful use, possession, manufacturing, distribution or dispensation of a controlled substance ...is prohibited. If it is determined that a violation of this policy has occurred, disciplinary action up to and including the dismissal of students and referral for prosecution may result.” The Federal Controlled Substances Act defines marijuana as a controlled substance and makes no distinction between the medical and recreational use of marijuana.

Any violation by the College of the Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, or facilitation of or acquiescence to a violation of the Federal Controlled Substances Act, would jeopardize the College’s eligibility to participate in financial aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Further, a student convicted of an offense involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance during a period of school enrollment in which federal financial aid was received, is ineligible to receive federal student aid for specified periods of time, depending on the egregiousness of the offense.

As such, the College’s position remains that the possession or use of marijuana on its campus, for any reason, is a violation of College policy subject to disciplinary action under the College’s employee progressive discipline rules and the College’s Community Standards (as applicable).

The College will periodically review this statement as needed or if changes occur in Federal law.