



ETHICAL ISSUES

The Use of Marijuana and Working in the Criminal Justice System

The sale of marijuana in Colorado is creating novel legal and ethical issues. As of January 2014, anyone can purchase pot from a licensed store without fear of citations or arrest, though public use is still banned. Marijuana sales in the first month that they were legal reached millions of dollars. Despite the legality of pot use in Colorado and Washington, it remains illegal in the majority of states and at the federal level.

The criminal justice system faces numerous challenges with sporadic legalization across the country.

Think About It

1. Should an otherwise qualified candidate for a law enforcement job be disqualified when he or she reveals the legal use of marijuana in Colorado or Washington?
2. Should judges and attorneys be allowed to smoke pot in the privacy of their own homes even if it is right before a trial?
3. How might the use of marijuana influence decision making in these situations?
4. What are the possible long-term consequences for students who smoke pot legally and want to work in the criminal justice system?