**Drugs**

**Types of Drugs**

Drugs are classified as

* Class A (cocaine, heroin, crystal meth)
* Class B (cannabis, ketamine, amphetamines) or
* Class C (benzodiazepines, khat)

They are all illegal and the criminal penalty will depend on the Class of the drug and whether you are in possession of it or involved in supply and production.

**Penalties for drug possession, supply (dealing) and production**

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| **Class** | **Drug** | **Possession** | **Supply and Production** |
| A | Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstacy (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 | Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, ketamine, Ritalin, synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (e.g. Mephedrone, methoxetamine) | Up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both | Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both |
| C | Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam), GHB, GBL, BZP, khat | Up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both | Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both |

Temporary Class drugs – the government can ban new drugs for 1 year under a ‘temporary banning order’ while they decide how the drugs should be classified.

The police can issue a warning or an on-the-spot fine if you are found in possession of cannabis.

**What will happen if you are found guilty of a drugs offence?**

Tamworth Borough Council has a zero-tolerance approach to the use of illegal drugs. If you are a tenant, your tenancy conditions state that *you should not use the property for any criminal, immoral or illegal purpose, including selling or using drugs, or storing or handling stolen goods.*

The offence of drugs is dealt with by Staffordshire Police. However the following actions are available to us as a Landlord:

* The smell of cannabis can impact on surrounding residents. The odour is a nuisance and a Community Protection Warning may be served. Breach of this may result in a Community Protection Notice, a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 and/or prosecution through the magistrates’ court.
* If you are convicted of a drugs related offence, an application can be made to the county court for possession of your tenancy under section 84 of the Housing Act 1985
* If you are convicted under section 4, 5, 6 or 8 or the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, we will ask the court for mandatory possession of your tenancy under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
* For serious anti-social behaviour and drug related activity, a Closure Notice may be issued ordering the removal of all persons from the property for a period up to 48 hours. This can be extended by application to the court for a Closure Order for up to 6 months.

If you have reason to believe somebody is using their home for the purposes of drug supply, you should report this to Staffordshire Police on 101 or online at www.staffordshire.police.uk

If this activity is taking place in a council tenancy, you can report this to Tamworth Borough Council at [www.tamworth.gov.uk](http://www.tamworth.gov.uk) and following this link - <https://mytamworth.tamworth.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it/anti-social-behaviour-incident/>