Baker, Lewis Schwisow & Laws, PLLC

FREQUENTLY ASKED DRUG CRIME QUESTIONS

What types of illegal drugs are most frequently involved in drug crimes**?**

The types of drugs most frequently involved in drug crimes in Washington are marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), and LSD.

What is a "drug schedule"?

A drug schedule is a guide that was created in 1970 as part of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act. The drug schedule classifies drugs and narcotics into five categories or schedules based upon their medical usefulness and their addictive qualities.

- **Schedule I** substances are not used for medicinal purposes and are highly addictive and dangerous (heroin, LSD & mescaline).
- **Schedule II** substances are currently used for medical reasons although there are restrictions regarding their usage. They do have addictive properties and these drugs include opium and amphetamines.
- **Schedule III** substances place users at less of a risk for developing an addiction and do serve medicinal purposes (anabolic steroids and ketamine).
- **Schedule IV** substances have an even lesser risk of addiction but still have the potential for abuse (barbital and diazepam).
- **Schedule V** substances are frequently used for medical reasons but still place users at risk for abuse.

What is alternative sentencing?

Drug offender sentencing alternative (DOSA) is a special program that may be available to drug offenders whose crimes are non-violent in nature. Alternative sentencing is overseen by a Judge who will preside over the case making sure all requirements are fulfilled by the defendant. Individuals given alternative sentences are frequently drug tested, given drug treatment counseling, and supervised under probation. Once the drug offender completes the alternative sentencing program, their drug charges will be dismissed. Alternative sentencing was created with the purpose of rehabilitating drug offenders rather than just punishing them, which improves the odds that they will not commit any type of drug crime again.

Who is eligible for Alternative Sentencing?

Only non-violent drug offenders may be eligible for alternative sentencing. Eligibility will also depend on the type of drug crime you are charged with, as well as your past criminal history. To find out if you qualify for alternative sentencing, you should speak with a lawyer at our firm.