

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY

Drug abuse and use at the workplace are subjects of immediate concern in our society. These problems are extremely complex and ones for which there are no easy solutions. From a safety perspective, the users of drugs may impair the well being of all employees, the public at large, and result in damage to state property. Therefore, it is the policy of the State of Arkansas that the unlawful manufacture, distribution; dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance in a state agency's workplace is prohibited. Any employee violating this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including termination. The specifics of this policy are as follows:

1. State agencies will not differentiate between drug users and drug pushers or sellers. Any employee who gives or in any way transfers a controlled substance to another person or sells or manufactures a controlled substance while on the job or on agency premises will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.
2. The term "controlled substance" means any drug listed in 21 U.S.C. Section 812 and other federal regulations. Generally, these are drugs that have a high potential for abuse. Such drugs include, but are not limited to, Heroin, Marijuana, Cocaine, PCP, and "Crack". They also include "legal drugs" which are not prescribed by a licensed physician.
3. Each employee is required by law to inform the agency within five (5) working days after he/she is convicted for violation of any federal or state criminal drug statute where such violation occurred on the agency's premises. A conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or the imposition of a sentence by a judge or jury in any federal court, state court or other court of competent jurisdiction.
4. Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs must notify the United State government agency with which the contract was made within ten (10) working days after receiving notice from the employee or otherwise receives actual notice of such a conviction.
5. If an employee is convicted of violating any criminal drug statute while in the workplace, he/she will be subject to discipline up to and including termination. Alternatively, the agency may require the employee to successfully finish a drug abuse program sponsored by an approved private or governmental institution.
6. As a condition of further employment on any federal government contract, the law requires all employees to abide by this policy.