

# THE FLORIDA PROVIDERS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY, INC.

*Working to Promote Traffic Safety, Ethics & Integrity  
In the Florida Driver Improvement Industry*



Please reply to:  
TFPTS  
C/O Noel Warner  
1800 Pembroke Dr  
Suite 300  
Orlando, FL 32810  
website: [www.fpts.us](http://www.fpts.us)

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## TFPTS Drugged Driving Position Statement

When an individual drives on our roadways it is their responsibility to operate their vehicles responsibly, not only for their safety but for the safety of those around them. Driving requires complete focus which cannot be achieved if you are under the influence of any drug; one must be of sound mind and body while driving. While many DUI arrests are the direct result of excessive alcohol consumption, the fact of the matter is there are numerous substances both legal and illegal that can impair a driver's ability to operate a vehicle. This broad spectrum of impairment is why arrests of this nature are referred to as DWI—Driving While Impaired—and DUI—Driving Under the Influence. Alcohol is not specifically mentioned in these categories because impairment goes beyond just alcohol.

The use of illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs can make driving a vehicle unsafe. Drugged driving puts not only the driver but also passengers and other vulnerable road users at risk. The effects of specific drugs may differ depending on the individual and how they affect the brain; however, one thing is certain: even small amounts of drugs can have a measurable effect.

Drugged driving, like drunk driving, will cause a level of impairment in drivers regardless of their age. Some drugs, such as cocaine or methamphetamines can cause a driver to act aggressively and reckless when driving. Marijuana can impair judgment of time and distance while driving increasing lane weaving and poor reaction time. Being under the influence of any drug or alcohol can lead to collisions.

In 2013, 9.9 million people reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs. This was highest among 18-25 year olds, where 10.6% reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs. (SAMHSA 2013 NSUDH survey). According to NHTSA Roadside survey, the drug showing the greatest increase among drivers from 2007 to 2013/2014 was marijuana (THC). The percentage of THC-positive drivers increased from 8.6 percent in 2007 to 12.6 percent in 2013/2014, an astonishing proportional increase of 47 percent. As Marijuana Legalization becomes more prominent, there is a strong concern regarding drugged driving incidents. As we await the hard

facts on Marijuana, we are reaffirming our stance against driving while under the influence of a drug; be it marijuana, prescription drugs, alcohol or any other legal/illegal substance.

The devastation drugged driving can bring to both the individual at fault, the victims in resulting collisions, and the families of all involved is absolutely tragic. This devastation is preventable. The unnecessary damage caused by drugged driving is what drives TFPTS to take this position: Ingesting, Consuming, or otherwise using a drug—whether legal or not—and then driving should be avoided at all costs; the risks are too great.

Logic dictates these facts! No matter what age, ethnicity, social or economic background, drugged driving affects us all. The more any drug—including Marijuana—is available and the more it is perceived as harmless, the more it will be used. When more people use these drugs, more people will drive under the influence because it affects their mind and judgement. More drugged drivers on the road will inevitably lead to more crashes, injuries, and fatalities. TFPTS is taking a stand against drugged driving and we welcome you to stand with us. Any time you add a mind/mood altering substance—any drug—to your system, you are without a doubt increasing the risks of having a collision.