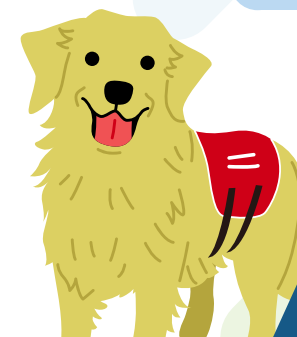


Practical Legal Guidebook for foreigners

Drug policy of Korea



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About dangerous drugs

Definition of dangerous drugs

- Dangerous drugs refer to substances that affect human mental state and result in habitual use or addiction.

Types of dangerous drugs

Narcotics

- Narcotics are drugs that create a strong craving to continue using them regularly (chronic use), leading to the need for increasing amounts of the drug (tolerance). When individuals stop using them, they experience intense physical symptoms (withdrawal symptoms). Using narcotics may cause significant harm to both the individual and society as a whole.¹⁾

- Narcotics include narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and cannabis.²⁾

(1) Narcotic drugs

① Poppy, opium, and coca leaves



Poppy



Opium



Coca leaves

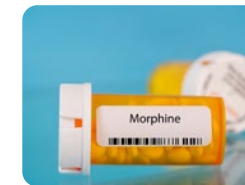
② 35 types of substances extracted from poppy, opium, and coca leaves



Cocaine



Heroin



Morphine

③ Other chemical compounds (104 types) that may be abused or cause harm



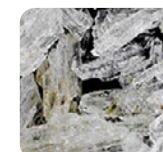
Fentanyl



Methadone

(2) Psychotropic substances

- Substances that adversely affect the central nervous system and lead to significant harm when misused or abused.



Methamphetamine



Dextromethorphan



Ketamine



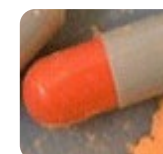
MDMA (Ecstasy)



Yaba



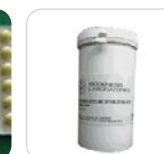
Nalbuphine



LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide)



Fenfluramine



GHB [(Gamma hydroxybutyrate (C4H8O3))]

1) World Health Organization (WHO)'s definition of narcotic substances

2) The Narcotics Control Act, Article 2 subparagraph 2

(3) Cannabis

- The cannabis plant, cannabis resin, and any products derived from them



The cannabis plant



Cannabis cigar



Hashish

- Inhalants - glue, butane gas, paint, lacquer, varnish, thinner, etc.
- Other - alcoholic drinks, tobacco, etc.



Learn more

Types of narcotics

All matters related to narcotics are regulated by the Narcotics Control Act. Any violation of this Act can result in punishment.



Poppy seed cookies



Cannabidiol



Poppy seed salad dressing



Cannabis vape cartridges

02 PART

Dangers from using dangerous drugs

About drug addiction

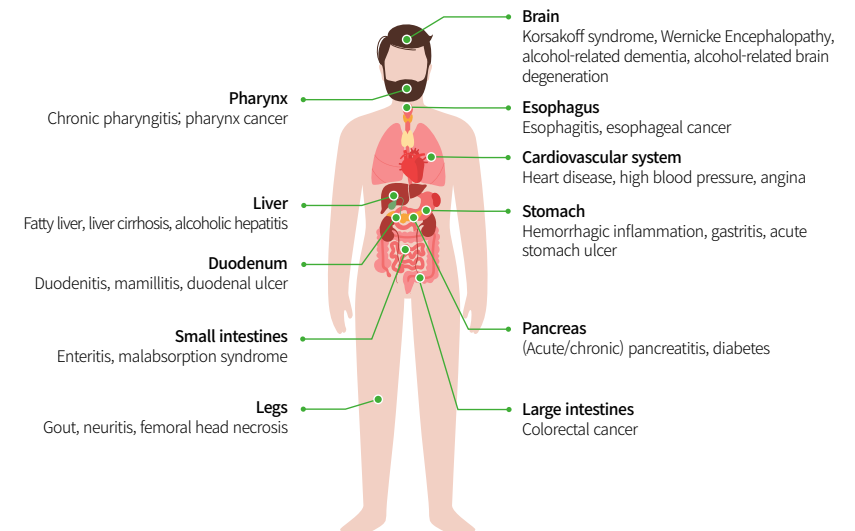
- Drug addiction is a pathological condition where individuals become overly dependent on narcotics to the point of overdosing.

Alcohol addiction

About alcohol addiction

- When an individual persists in drinking alcohol despite encountering health problems and facing difficulties in fulfilling their societal and work-related responsibilities due to excessive drinking, it indicates that they are suffering from alcohol addiction.

Effects of alcohol on the body³⁾



3) Gangbuk-Gu Addiction Support Center, Seoul

- Alcohol addiction and crimes

- Alcohol addiction leads to social ills including drunk driving (DUI) or domestic violence.



- Nicotine (tobacco) addiction**

- About nicotine

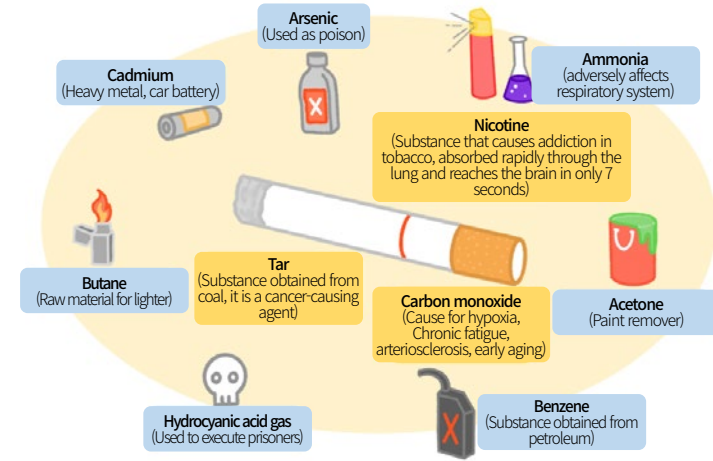
- Nicotine is an addictive substance found in tobacco. It is a psychoactive substance that causes drug addiction and makes it hard for smokers to quit smoking.

- About nicotine addiction

- There are people who smoke much more than intended and find themselves unable to do fully perform their role at work, home, or school. There are also those who sacrifice their social, occupational, or recreational activities due to excessive smoking. These cases often constitute nicotine addiction.

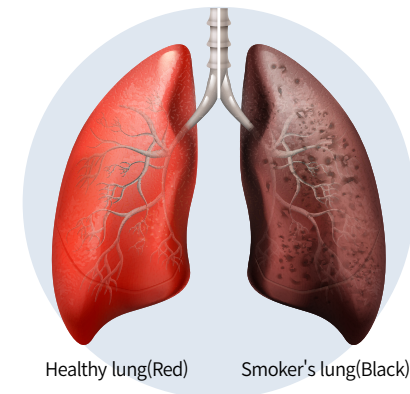
- Harmful substance in tobacco

- Tobacco contains many harmful substances such as nicotine, ammonia, carbon monoxide, etc, which enter our system when we smoke.



- Effects of tobacco on the body

- Tobacco smoke is a group 1 carcinogen.
 - Smoking is one of the primary causes of lung cancer.
 - Secondhand smoking can also cause lung cancer.



Narcotics addiction

■ About narcotics addiction

- If a person is unable to control his/her desire to use narcotics, even when they are fully aware of the negative consequences, he/she is in a state of narcotics addiction. A narcotic addict gradually comes to lose his/her self-control and judgment, and the strong desire to use narcotics ends up dictating his/her life.

■ Impacts of narcotics on the body



- If someone becomes addicted to narcotics, they may experience different symptoms depending on the type of drugs they are using. However, one common symptom is an inability to reacting to their environment and difficulty thinking and behaving normally.

- Narcotics addiction can lead to death.



■ Narcotics addiction and crimes

- Narcotics addiction is highly risky because narcotic addicts may commit crimes while experiencing hallucinations.



Narcotics-related crimes and penalties

Types of narcotics-related crimes

- In Korea, production, distribution, sale, administering and possession of narcotics is **prohibited by law**.

In Korea, the followings are all prohibited.

Narcotics production
(growing/manufacturing)

Import/export of narcotics

Sale/purchase of narcotics

Narcotics brokering



Using or injecting narcotics

Inhaling and consuming
narcotics

Possessing narcotics

Posting of narcotics-related
signs and ads

- The advertisement of drugs and the advertising methods are only regulated and permitted within the boundaries of applicable laws.

Penalties for narcotics-related crimes

- Individuals who engage in narcotics-related crimes are subject to penalties under the Narcotics Control Act.
- Individuals involved in narcotics-related crimes can face imprisonment or fines.
- Individuals who breach regulations regarding narcotics-related advertisements can face imprisonment, fines, revocation of the ad approval, or restrictions on their business activities.



Learn more

Be warned! New types of narcotics-related crimes



During my visit to my home country, a friend asked me to deliver a package to his/her friend in Korea.

I later discovered that the package contained narcotics, and I had no idea about this and finished the delivery.

If such a situation happened to you, you may face charges for the transportation of narcotics and be held accountable based on the outcome of a police investigation.

Agencies from where you can seek help

📌 Tips to quit smoking(☎ 1544-9030, www.nosmokeguide.go.kr)

- Provision of counseling; operation programs to help you quit smoking
- Phone counseling: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on weekends & public holidays / ARS service: Around the clock

📌 Quit Smoking Dudeurim Service (<https://nosmk.khealth.or.kr/nsk/ntcc/index.do>)

- National Tobacco Control Center (<https://nosmk.khealth.or.kr/nsk/ntcc/subIndex/263.do>)
: Provision of support for quitting smoking (including counseling by phone) as an organization designated by the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW)
- Regional Tobacco Control Centers (<https://nosmk.khealth.or.kr/nsk/ntcc/subIndex/264.do>)
: A total of 17 centers in 16 locations nationwide
- Public health centers nationwide (<https://nosmk.khealth.or.kr/nsk/ntcc/subIndex/267.do>)
: Operation of quit-smoking clinics (provision of relevant counseling and quit smoking medicines, etc.)

📌 Reporting of narcotics use

- The Supreme Prosecutors' Office ☎ 1301 / The National Police Agency ☎ 112 / The Korea Customs Administration ☎ 125

📌 MOHW-affiliated Counseling Center(☎ 129, www.129.go.kr)

- General counseling : 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, Emergency counseling : Around the clock

📌 Korea Association Against Drug Abuse (☎ 1899-0893, www.drugfree.or.kr)

- Counseling on narcotics and medication abuse; narcotics-related education, etc.
- 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on weekdays

📌 Korean Association of Poison Control Center (☎ 070-4693-1775, www.kaacc.co.kr)

- It engages in activities to provide support to drug addicts as a network representing 50 affiliated support centers