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DRUG OFFENSES IN MAURITIUS

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to Mauritian law is provided for general information only and may not cover issues or details specific to a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to Mauritian government officials.

While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Mauritius' laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Mauritius are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

Penalties for drug offenses

DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT 41/2000

Under section 21 (1) POSSESSION OF DRUGS

No person shall possess any dangerous drug unless he is authorized to do so under this Act. Shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.

Under section 30. DRUG DEALING

(1) Any person who unlawfully

- (a) organises, manages, or finances any offences specified in the section,
- (b) import, exports, causes to be imported or exported, aids, abets, counsels or procures the importation or exportation of any dangerous drug;
- (c) produces, manufactures, extracts, prepares or transforms any dangerous drug;
- (d) offers, offers for sale, distributes, sells, brokers, delivers or transports on any term whatsoever, dispatches, or dispatches in transit any dangerous drug;
- (e) cultivates opium poppy, coca bush or cannabis plant;
- (f) possesses, purchases or offers to purchase any dangerous drug for the purpose of any activity in this section.

Shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable-

I. Where the offence is in respect of dangerous drug specified in Part I of Schedule I, to a fine not exceeding one million rupees and to penal servitude for a term not exceeding 20 years.

II. Where the offence is in respect of a dangerous drug specified in Part II of Schedule I, to a fine not exceeding one million rupees together with penal servitude for a term which shall not be less than 5 years and not more than 20 years.

Under section 34. UNLAWFUL USE OF DRUGS

(1) Any person who unlawfully

(a) smokes, inhales, sniffs, consumes or administers to himself in any way whatsoever any dangerous drug ;

(b) purchases, transport or possess any dangerous drug for his personal consumption;

(c) has in his possession any pipe, syringe, utensil, apparatus or other article for use in connection with smoking, inhaling, sniffing, consuming or the administration of any dangerous drug, shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 10,000 rupees and, subject to subsection (2), in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Under section 35. OFFERING OR SELLING FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION.

(1) Any person who unlawfully offers, offers to buy, sells or distributes any dangerous drug to a person for his personal consumption shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for term not exceeding 10 years.

For more information, please visit the Government of Mauritius' website:

<http://www.gov.mu/portal/site/police/menuitem.0a8bbb86ffe13104d0db7010e2b521ca/>