



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**  
**Juvenile Justice**  
**and**  
**Delinquency Prevention Commission**  
<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/probation/jjdpc.htm>

November 4, 2015

The Mendocino County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission has developed a "Statement on Marijuana and Youth" which we would like to share.

Commission members are available to discuss this paper in more detail at your request.

If you have any questions, please contact the Mendocino County Juvenile Justice Commission at (707) 467-8257 or by emailing the Commission at [jjdpc@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:jjdpc@co.mendocino.ca.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Levenson-Palmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Levenson-Palmer, Chair

Mendocino County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND  
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
COMMISSION



589 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

JJDPC Statement on Marijuana and Youth

October 18, 2015

The mission of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission of Mendocino County is to advocate for a quality system of care for juveniles and to promote services, resources and opportunities for young people in the county. With this in mind we are concerned about the potential negative impacts on youth of the impending legalization of recreational marijuana. We support the idea that adults are free and able to make choices around marijuana use. However, while recognizing a range of individual differences among young people with respect to both physical and mental health, we note a growing body of evidence that frequent use of marijuana can negatively affect adolescent brain development. Although some young people may have the skills to make healthy decisions, many are vulnerable to long-term impacts on personality development, engagement with school and other activities, and possible involvement with the juvenile justice system. We therefore support limiting the legal sale and recreational use of marijuana to adults age 21 and over.

When marijuana becomes legal for recreational use in California the law must assure there is taxable revenue available for education, research, prevention, compliance and assistance for treatment when a youth is adjudicated for marijuana possession or use. We must also assure that there are strict marketing rules preventing the targeting of youth with this product.

In addition funding should be made available for more programs that offer youth opportunities to develop skills, to follow academic and/or career paths, and to engage in healthy recreational activities, in this way providing alternatives to the use of marijuana and to employment in the 'industry.'

While we do not want to criminalize youth for infractions of the marijuana law, we do want to hold them accountable for their behavior. School-based educational and mentoring programs can be valuable alternative interventions when a poor choice is made by a youth concerning marijuana.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Services 280 E. Standley St. Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 4634271 (707) 463-5431 (Fax)	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Services 589 B Low Gap Rd Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 463-5750 (707) 463-5749 (Fax)	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Office 700 S. Franklin St. Ft. Bragg, CA 95437 (707) 964-6945 (Juv) (707) 961-2622 (Adult) (707) 961-2400 (Fax)	<input type="checkbox"/> North County Juvenile 221 S. Lenore St. Willits, CA 95490 (707) 456-3890 (707) 456-3892 (Fax)	<input type="checkbox"/> North County Adult 125 E. Commercial St Willits, CA 95490 (707) 459-7807 (707) 459-7899 (Fax)
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We are bringing our concerns to the attention of parents and the larger community to engage their support for a law that includes protections and supports for vulnerable youth.

Commissioners:

John Azzaro  
Kate C. Gaston  
Sharon Govern  
Gary Levenson-Palmer  
Libbe Madsen  
Edward Mann  
Noel O'Neill  
Dolli Rose