



## *Berrien County Trial Court*

Gary J. Bruce, Chief Judge ~ Carrie Smietanka-Haney, Administrator  
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To the Berrien County Trial Court Community:

As you are aware, the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act was passed by Michigan voters on November 6, 2018. This ballot proposal legalized possession and use of marijuana by individuals 21 years of age and older.

Please understand that this new state law does not change policies prohibiting the use or possession of marijuana on any property leased or managed by or on behalf of the Berrien County Trial Court. Therefore, Berrien County Trial Court officials, staff, contractors, or court users are prohibited from bringing marijuana onto any Berrien County Trial Court property or during off-campus Berrien County Trial Court business or events.

Marijuana use remains illegal and fully criminalized according to federal law, and the Berrien County Trial Court is subject to the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. Employees, officials, contractors, and court users who violate Court policy prohibiting the use or possession of illegal drugs on Court facilities will continue to be subject to legal and/or disciplinary action. Trial Court employees are still prohibited from possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana as referenced in Berrien County Policy ADM 1150 – Drug Free Workplace/Substance Abuse and Berrien County Trial Court Administrative Policy 2005-002 – Random Drug and Alcohol Testing.

Sincerely,

Hon. Gary J. Bruce

Chief Judge, Berrien County Trial Court