



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

September 13, 1985

Carl Eric Olsen
01955-036
Unit B-South
PMB 1000
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Olsen:

This replies to your August 26, 1985 letter asking for information on marijuana and for a religious exemption for the use of marijuana.

We have not published on this substance. Your letter has been forwarded to the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), Room 10-65, at the letterhead address.

Religious exemptions for controlled drug use is under the jurisdiction of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) 1405 I Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20537. Please write to them for information on that subject.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Davis".

Harold Davis
Consumer Safety Officer
Office of Consumer and Professional Affairs
Center for Drugs and Biologics, HFN-17



September 24, 1985

Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and
Mental Health Administration
National Institute on Drug Abuse
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

Carl E. Olsen
01955-036
Unit B - South
PMB 1000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Your letter of August 26, 1985 to Dr. William Pollin, former Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has been referred to me for reply. In your letter you are requesting the latest information on marijuana. Enclosed please find some of the latest available publications by NIDA on various aspects of marijuana. I hope you will find them informative and useful.

As to your question of "how to obtain a religious exemption for the use of marijuana by members of the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church?" I assume that you mean exemption from Schedule I status of this substance. NIDA has no jurisdiction over granting religious exemption from this status of marijuana. Your inquiry should be addressed either to local state authorities, or to the Federal Agency of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), of the Department of Justice, which has primary responsibility for legal aspects of drug scheduling. I suggest for you to write to:

Howard McClain, Jr., Chief
Drug Control Section
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
1405 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20537

If you have any questions concerning health issues of marijuana use please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Szara, M.D., D.Sc.
Chief, Biomedical Branch
Division of Preclinical Research

Attachments (3)



October 1, 1985

Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and
Mental Health Administration
Rockville MD 20857

Mr. Carl Eric Olsen
01955-036
Unit B-South
PMB 1000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Mr. Olsen:

As requested, enclosed is the most recent information on marijuana available from the National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information. Also, I suggest you contact the State Attorney General's Office or the South Eastern Regional Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for information related to exemptions from narcotics laws. The address of the DEA Regional Office is: 8400 N.W. 53rd Street, Miami, Fl. 33166.

I hope the enclosed information will be useful.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leona D. Ferguson".

Leona D. Ferguson
Chief,
National Clearinghouse for
Drug Abuse Information
Division of Prevention and
Communications

Enclosures