



ARRESTED **FOR DRUG USE?**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:
A STEP BY STEP GUIDE**

1

REQUEST THE REFERRAL OF YOUR CASE TO THE ADDICTION COMMITTEE



Once you have been charged with drug use or possession, you should request the referral of your case to the Addiction Committee from the Police Station or the first time you are presented to a judge.

The law does not explicitly prohibit referral to treatment of individuals suspected of drug use AND other offenses, such as facilitation or dealing. However, in practice, individuals referred to treatment are mainly those arrested for drug use ONLY.

The referral halts legal proceedings against you as long as you are committed to your treatment program.

In practice, this means that no sentence is pronounced against you and that your court hearing are pushed forward until you complete your program requirements.

Requests for referral made at the Police Station are rarely respected. However, it is your right to make that request and when you do, make sure the officer writes it down on the interrogation record.

2 GO FOR A MEDICAL ASSESSMENT AT DAHR EL BECHEK HOSPITAL AND SUBMIT A URINE TEST



Once your request has been accepted, you are sent before the Addiction Committee Registry, that will create a file for your case, explain the procedure to you and send you for a medical assessment at Dahr el Bechek Governmental Hospital.

At the hospital, you will be required to submit a urine test.

The result of your urine test does not compromise your referral or the suspension of your case before the court, but it may affect the treatment center the Addiction Committee decides to assign you.

3 THE ADDICTION COMMITTEE ASSIGNS YOU A CENTER



On the basis of the medical assessment, the Addiction Committee decides whether you need an inpatient or outpatient treatment center or a psycho-social clinic.

Different factors influence the duration of your treatment, including the substance you have been arrested for, your medical assessment and the policies of the center you have been assigned to.

Remember, you may voice your preference to the Addiction Committee regarding the treatment center you are sent to.

*There are three centers formally recognized by the Ministry of Public Health to which you can be referred within this procedure:
Skoun, AJEM and Oum el Nour.*

4 COMMIT TO TREATMENT



As long as you comply with your treatment requirements, your case is suspended before the courts.

Throughout the program, the treatment center requires you to submit regular urine tests and sends monthly reports to the Committee, informing its members of your commitment and your progress.



5 COMPLETE YOUR TREATMENT AND OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Once your treatment is completed, the center informs the Addiction Committee that you have fully complied with the requirements and recommends terminating your treatment. On this basis, the Addiction Committee delivers you a Certificate of Completion that you add to your legal dossier at the court.

6 SUBMIT CERTIFICATE TO THE COURT TO ENSURE A CLEAN CRIMINAL RECORD



On this basis, the Addiction Committee delivers you a Certificate of Completion that you add to your legal dossier.

This ensures that all drug use charges against you are dropped and that your criminal record remains free of drug-related offenses.



The 1998 Lebanese Law on Drugs criminalizes drug use, possession, facilitation and drug dealing amongst other things, but also establishes the principle of “Treatment as an Alternative to Prosecution”, which allows people who use drugs to avoid legal repercussions by seeking out treatment.

In order to implement this principle, the law established the Committee for Combating Addiction (or Addiction Committee), a legal entity in charge of referring and overseeing treatment for individuals arrested for drug use.

Article 127

A penalty of three months to three years in prison, as well as a fine of one to five million Lebanese Liras, shall be imposed upon anyone who acquires, possesses or purchases a small quantity of a dangerous substance, without prescription, for the purpose of personal consumption. The quantities possessed should be small enough to be considered as dedicated to personal consumption.

Anyone whose addiction to these substances has been proven, and who has not resorted to treatment, shall receive the same penalty.

The person prosecuted can be exempted from punishment or have their penalty suspended if he/she is a minor or is not a repeat offender or has signed a pledge to not repeat this behavior AND commits to treatment.

Article 183

Any person who suffers from addiction has the right to request his/her referral to the Addiction Committee for treatment before legal proceedings are undertaken against him or her. His/her commitment to treatment and reception of a Certificate of Completion of treatment gives him/her the right to avoid prosecution.

Article 194

A person suffering from addiction can request treatment during investigation and trial. The judicial body in charge of his/her case then decides to halt his/her prosecution and refer him/her to the Addiction Committee that assigns him/her a treatment center.

Article 195

[...] if the person suffering from addiction perseveres in treatment until their reception from the Counter Addiction Committee of a certificate proving their completion of treatment, pursuant to reports issued by the administration of the treatment center and the psychiatrist; notice is to be made to the judicial body overseeing the case who then shall decide the abandonment of action. However, if the person suffering from addiction ceases treatment before its completion, the judicial body may then resume their prosecution and sentencing from whence they were suspended.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

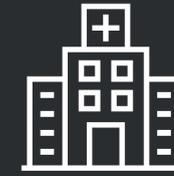
CONTACT US AT

SKOUN

Badaro Main Street, Baydoun Building
4th Floor, Beirut, Lebanon
+961 1 381 580

Rafic Hariri University Hospital, Villa 3
Jnah, Beirut, Lebanon
+961 1 845 512

ARRESTED FOR DRUG USE?



**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:
A STEP BY STEP GUIDE**