



STATE OF INDIANA
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Bath Salts, Spice, and Synthetic Drugs

To Business Owners:

The Indiana Attorney General's Office has been working in partnership with state agencies, law enforcement and Prosecutors in an effort to raise awareness of and to enforce Indiana's ban on bath salts, spice and synthetic drugs.

As you might be aware, bath salts, spice, and novelty powders are street names associated with synthetic cathinones and cannabinoids. These synthetic drugs are sold in small packets for \$20 to \$50 by retailers. Although the items are typically marked "not for human consumption", they have no legitimate purpose and are being ingested by users, particularly by our youth.

It is now well documented that users of these substances experience paranoia and hallucinations, as well as frequently exhibiting aggressive, unpredictable, and often violent behavior. The synthetic drugs can cause dangerously high body temperatures, racing heart rates, high blood pressure, and permanent organ damage, and the psychotic effect of these substances often last for several days.

The purpose of this letter is to put you on notice that my office will aggressively pursue civil remedies against any person or business involved in the sale of these dangerous substances. Additionally, our partners in the law enforcement community have committed to pursue the appropriate criminal remedies and penalties for those that manufacture, deliver, or finance the manufacture or delivery of synthetic drugs.

The distribution of synthetic drug products violates the Indiana Uniform Food Drug and Cosmetics Act, Ind. Code § 16-42-1-1, *et seq.*, and Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, Ind. Code § 24-5.0.5-1, *et seq.*, and may contain controlled substances or their analogs, in violation of the Indiana Controlled Substances Act, Ind. Code § 35-48-1-1 *et seq.*, and applicable federal law. My Office will pursue civil enforcement remedies and penalties for the distribution of synthetic drugs, including civil actions to obtain injunctions, penalties, restitution orders, inventory seizures and the loss of retail merchant certificate.

Criminal penalties sought by law enforcement range from Class A Misdemeanor to Class C Felony depending upon the circumstances. Also, any person distributing any form of drugs is subject to forfeiture of all related assets.

I am taking a stand against these dangerous drugs in our communities and I ask you, as a responsible business owner and member of your own local community, to put an end to the distribution of these dangerous substances. Please know that I am committed to pursuing all available remedies at my disposal.

Additionally, if you have never sold synthetic drug products, I commend your decision in that regard and appreciate your ongoing compliance.

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory F. Zoeller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "Z".

Gregory F. Zoeller
Indiana Attorney General