



**Reading
Coalition
Against
Substance
Abuse**

The READING POLICE DEPARTMENT working with the READING COALITION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE (RCASA) currently monitor all marijuana violations issued in Reading by State Police or Reading Police to ensure youth under 18 meet their requirements.

**What do I
need to do if
I got a state
bylaw ticket
for \$100?**

**Pay \$100 fine @
Reading Town Hall,
Clerk's Office,
16 Lowell St,
Reading, MA 01867**

**Sign up for &
attend the 4-hr
class by calling
(617) 661-3991
(details in
Guide below)**

**Complete 10
hours of
Mandatory
Community
Service (details
in Guide below)**

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Julianne DeAngelis, RCASA
Reading Police Department
15 Union St., Reading, MA 01867
jideangelis@ci.reading.ma.us or 781.942.6756**

Guide to Youth and their Parents/Guardians on complying with “An Act Establishing a Sensible State Marihuana Policy,” commonly known as “Question 2.”

(Adapted by the Reading Police Department, 6/10/13)

What is Question 2?

- On November 4, 2008, the voters passed Ballot Question 2, “An Act Establishing a Sensible State Marihuana Policy”, commonly known as Question 2.
- The new law became effective on January 2, 2009.
- A full copy of this law can be found at the MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security website: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/> under the section entitled: “2008 Statewide Ballot Initiative Question 2: ‘An Act Establishing a Sensible State Marihuana Policy.’”

What do I need to know about complying with Question #2?

- A youth who is **under the age of 18** and has been found in possession of one ounce or less of marihuana and charged with a civil offense is subject to a **\$100 civil penalty** and forfeiture of the contraband.
- In addition, within one year of the date of the offense listed on the citation, the youth must complete a drug awareness program that includes
 - (1) four hours of classroom instruction or group discussion (classroom instruction requirement), and
 - (2) ten hours of community service (community service requirement).
- The youth or his/her parent or legal guardian is responsible for demonstrating to the court that the youth has completed both requirements of the drug awareness program by filing certificates of completion of both requirements, with the court, within one year of the date of the offense.
- **If the youth fails to complete both requirements of the drug awareness program within one year of the offense, the court may increase the civil penalty to as much as \$1,000, for which the youth and his or her parents are jointly responsible.**
- If the certifications required to **document completion of both requirements of the drug awareness program are not timely filed**, the court is to notify the youth and the parent or guardian of a hearing to show cause why the civil penalty should not be increased to \$1,000.
- Lack of ability to pay, and unavailability of a program, are recognized defenses.

How do I complete the Classroom Instruction Requirement of the Drug Awareness Program?

- Classroom instruction sessions of the drug awareness programs will be scheduled periodically throughout the state based on demand. A youth who receives a citation under this law must register for classroom instruction under the drug awareness program by calling the Institute for Health and Recovery (IHR) at (617) 661-3991, or toll free at (866) 705-2807 and ask to speak with the Question 2 Project Specialist.
- Youth will be asked to provide a current address and telephone number, and will be contacted by IHR when a classroom instruction placement becomes available.

What do I bring with me to the Classroom Instruction Session(s)?

- **Youth must bring identification to the classroom instruction session(s).** **Acceptable forms of identification include** student IDs, a driver’s license, birth certificate, social security card or baptismal certificate.
- If the youth does not have one of the acceptable forms of ID described above, s/he may be signed into the training by a parent/guardian.

How do I obtain the Certificate of Completion for the Classroom Instruction Requirement of the Drug Awareness program?

- After the youth has attended and completed the **4-hour classroom instruction, a “Certificate of Completion”** for the classroom instruction requirement of the drug awareness program will be provided by IHR.
- It is the responsibility of the youth, or the parent, or legal guardian for the youth to file this certificate with the **READING POLICE DEPARTMENT**, along with a **certificate of completion of the community service requirement**, discussed below, **within one year of the date of the citation.**
- **Both certificates must be filed** with the **READING POLICE DEPARTMENT** to demonstrate compliance with the drug awareness program requirements and avoid the penalty for failure to comply with those requirements.
- If the certificate of completion of the classroom instruction requirement is misplaced a copy may be obtained by calling IHR at (617) 661-3991 or (866) 705-2807.

How do I complete the Community Service Requirement of the Drug Awareness Program?

- In addition to the classroom instruction requirement of the drug awareness program, the youth is required to complete the 10 hour community service requirement of that program.
- Community service opportunities that qualify for completion of this requirement are available statewide only through the “Connect and Serve” program administered by the **Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA).**
MSA can be reached at the following website:
<http://www.volunteersolutions.org/mass-service/volunteer/> or
Phone: (617) 542.2544

Or

If you have any questions about Community Service, please contact:

Julianne DeAngelis, RCASA
Reading Police Department
15 Union St., Reading, MA 01867
jdeangelis@ci.reading.ma.us or **781.942.6756**

- Youth are required to visit the website and select a community service opportunity. The youth may choose from any of the community service/volunteer opportunities listed. It is the responsibility of the youth, the parent or legal guardian to contact the community service program or agency and ask if the youth may volunteer. (Note: There may not be a volunteer opportunity listed in your city/town. Some volunteer opportunities listed on the web site may not be appropriate for youth volunteers).
- The ten hours of community service may be fulfilled by serving multiple hours at multiple locations, as long as all of the hours are served at an agency/organization listed on the “Connect and Serve” website.

What if I want to engage in community service at a program that is not listed on the Connect and Serve

- If the youth wants to volunteer at an organization that is not listed on the “Connect and Serve website, the youth may ask that organization to register with “Connect and Serve.”
- The organization must be registered in order to be considered as a qualifying community service site. Organizations can register by logging onto: <http://www.volunteersolutions.org/mass-service/agency/signup.tcl>
- Any organization interested in additional information on how to register to be a

<p>website?</p>	<p>community service site may contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Massachusetts Service Alliance, 100 North Washington Street, Third Floor, Boston, MA 02114, P: 617.542.2544 • Note: The organization must be a Governmental Organization or a qualified non-profit 501(c) (3) or a city, county, state or federal agency to register and be accepted for posting on the “Connect and Serve” web site.
<p>How do I obtain the Certificate of Completion for the Community Service Requirement of the Drug Awareness Program?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the youth has completed 10 hours of community service with a program listed on the Connect and Serve site, the youth/parent/guardian is responsible for obtaining a completed “Community Service Certificate of Completion Form” signed by the /organization(s) where the youth engaged in such service. • The completed certification form must document the total number of community service hours the youth served. Documentation of completion of a total of 10 hours of community service is needed to meet this requirement. • This form is the youth’s Certificate of Completion for the community service requirement. To access the form, please contact IHR OR use the RCASA website http://www.edline.net/pages/ReadingPublicSchools/Community/RCASA/Community Service.
<p>What do I do with the Community Service Certificate of Completion AND the Class Certificate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within one year of the date of the citation, the youth or parent/guardian must drop off or mail the originals of the completed Community Service Certificate form(s) signed by the organization(s) and Class Certificate issued by IHR to: Julianne DeAngelis, RCASA READING POLICE DEPARTMENT 15 Union St., Reading, MA 01867 jideangelis@ci.reading.ma.us or 781.942.6756 • Your submission of the original forms demonstrates compliance with the Drug Awareness Program requirements. Prompt submission will avoid the penalty for failure to comply with those requirements. • The READING POLICE DEPARTMENT will monitor all violations issued to ensure youth under 18 meet their requirements i.e. pay fine, attend class, and complete community service. EOHHS(stage agency) will periodically audit volunteer activity to check for accuracy and/or fraud.
<p>Who do I call if I have questions about the Community Service Requirement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call Julianne DeAngelis, RCASA at 781.942.6756 OR • If you have more questions, you may call (617) 573-1600. You will be directed to the Question 2 Coordinator Voicemail Box. Please leave your name and phone number and a staff person will get back to you as soon as possible.
<p>What should I do if I move or change my phone number?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important for the youth to provide accurate and current contact information. Youth who move and/or change telephone numbers prior to attending classroom instruction must report the change by calling IHR at (617) 661-3991 or (866) 705-2807. • Parents/guardians are responsible for keeping the youth’s registration information up to date.