



The Marijuana Legalization Issue

One perspective taken into account when writing this book is to be neutral when it comes to political issues. Marijuana legalization has for many years been a provocative, ongoing discussion and likely will continue to be. As a counselor, I have always addressed the issue of marijuana legalization in the following manner: Alcohol is legal and there are still many people who need help for alcohol abuse so there is no reason to assume that no one will ever need help for problems with marijuana if it is legalized. The legality of a substance is just one factor among many when it comes to considering the harms related to choosing to use a substance. Another good example is cigarettes which are legal but kill millions. When it comes to getting help, the most important overall perspective to consider is how the use of substances, regardless of whether they are legal or illegal, affect people's lives. Otherwise, it is best to just avoid the legality debate and leave it to the politicians and voters. The core issues involved with overcoming substance use issues does not necessarily change as laws change as there are so many other relevant factors in the individualized process of upward change.