

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1619, July 23, 1979]

PENALIZING THE USE OR POSSESSION OR THE UNAUTHORIZED SALE TO MINORS OF VOLATILE SUBSTANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF INDUCING INTOXICATION OR IN ANY MANNER CHANGING, DISTORTING OR DISTURBING THE AUDITORY, VISUAL OR MENTAL PROCESS.

WHEREAS, reports from law enforcement agencies reveal that certain substances which are openly sold to the public are being availed of by drug dependents as substitutes for dangerous drugs;

WHEREAS, medical research and studies show that the use of such substitutes could cause death, physiological damage to the liver, kidneys, heart, blood and nervous system, induce dependency, self-destructive and anti-social acts while under the influence thereof, and lead to the use of other drugs;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to stop the use of such substances as substitutes for dangerous drugs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby decree and order as follows:

SECTION 1. Volatile substances as used in this Decree shall mean and include any liquid, solid or mixed substance having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes containing one or more of the following chemical compounds: methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, n-propyl acetate, n-butyl acetate, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl butyl ketone, benzene, toluene, xylene, styrene, naphthalene, n-pentane, n-hexane, n-heptane, methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, nitrous oxide, dichlorodifluoromethane, chlorodifluoromethane, isoamyl nitrate, ether or chloroform or any other chemical substance which when sniffed, smelled, inhaled, or introduced into the physiological system of the body produces or induces a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, dulling of the brain or nervous system, depression, giddiness, paralysis, or irrational behavior or in any manner changing, distorting or disturbing the auditory, visual or mental processes.

SECTION 2. The use or possession of volatile substances for the purpose of inhalation to induce or produce intoxication or any of the conditions described in the preceding section shall be punishable by imprisonment ranging from six months and one day to four years and a fine ranging from six hundred to four thousand, pesos: Provided, however, That the provisions of Article VI, entitled "Rehabilitative Confinement and Suspension of Sentence", of Republic Act No. 6425, as amended (otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972), shall, whenever appropriate, apply to the cases arising hereunder.

SECTION 3. The penalty of imprisonment ranging from four years and one day to eight years and a fine ranging from four thousand to eight thousand pesos shall be imposed upon any person who sells, administers, delivers, or gives away to another, on any terms whatsoever, or distributes, dispatches in transit or transports or who