

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



## SHERIFF ARPAIO TO CARD CARRYING MARIJUANA USERS:

**“YOU WON’T BE GETTING YOUR POT BACK”**

August 31, 2011

(Phoenix, AZ.) Persons arrested by Maricopa County Sheriff’s deputies for any criminal violation and who are card carrying marijuana users will not be allowed to retrieve their product upon release from jail, according to a policy decision made by Sheriff Joe Arpaio today.

In addition, police officers who bring suspects into the Sheriff’s jails with marijuana in their possession along with a medical marijuana registration card will be required to maintain the marijuana in their own separate police property rooms. Arpaio says marijuana is deemed as contraband in his jails and as such will not be stored here for other police agencies.

Arpaio says he has been made aware that there are legal rulings in other states which may eventually force his officers to return marijuana to card carrying users upon their release from jail but until such time that a local judge rules to that effect, Arpaio says will not permit his officers to return any illegal substance to exiting inmates.

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Contact: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)

**“Some courts in other states have ruled that defendants are entitled to a return of their controlled substances per the Medical Marijuana Act but until my hand is forced, they won’t be getting it back from my deputies.”**

**Arpaio, a former top official of the US Drug Enforcement Administration says, “Possession of marijuana is still a federal felony as far I am aware and my deputies aren’t going to violate federal law.”  
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