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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAKE FOREST MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

WAKE FOREST, NC – July 27, 2011 – A Wake Forest man was charged earlier this week for the possession of K2, a type of synthetic marijuana, after a juvenile with whom he was smoking the substance overdosed.

On Monday, Wake Forest Police charged Zachary Alexander Mcroy, 6432 Willowlawn Dr., with possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

According to police, Mcroy, 21, called 911 after a juvenile became very ill while smoking the synthetic marijuana inside Mcroy's vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a total of five packages and a glass bowl used to smoke the synthetic marijuana.

Mcroy and three others were transported to Wake Med for observation. The condition of the juvenile who overdosed is not known.

Mcroy's first court appearance is set for Sept. 30.

On June 1, 2011, North Carolina joined nearly 30 other states in banning synthetic forms of marijuana. The legislation, signed into law March 25 by Gov. Bev Perdue, outlaws the possession and distribution of products, which were once widely marketed by smoke shops and gas stations as "novelty items" with the warning, "Not for human consumption," displayed on the label.

Under the new law, the sale and manufacture of these substances is a felony. Possession charges can range from misdemeanor to felony, depending on the amount of the substance.



Anyone who possesses affected items is urged to contact local authorities regarding safe disposal.

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, K2, a synthetic version of marijuana that is often sold as incense, has spurred symptoms including a fast heart rate, confusion, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, tremors and chest pain. Also known as “Spice,” the herbal marijuana substitute is a blend of herbs sprayed with a synthetic marijuana-like drug.

Other reactions to K2 and Spice that have been reported include agitation, anxiety, elevated blood pressure, and even death.

Parents are urged to be on the lookout for what looks like incense in their child’s room and watch to see if their children seem more anxious than usual.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.