



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

**Lisa Madigan**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December, 2011

Dear Colleague,

A rising number of young people are using chemically laced substances akin to marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine that are sold over the counter at convenience stores, gas stations and tobacco shops throughout the state. This alarming trend is responsible for mounting numbers of injuries and deaths in Illinois and across the country.

In November 2011, I convened an emergency summit in Springfield to bring together top Illinois law enforcement authorities, educators, health care professionals, and parents with experts on synthetic drugs to increase awareness of synthetic drugs and identify solutions to limit access to these extremely dangerous substances.

While the summit was successful, more must be done to spread the word about this growing problem. To this end, my office has created a new fact sheet, *Synthetic Drugs: What You Need to Know*. This fact sheet provides a brief overview of synthetic drugs, including information on why they are so dangerous and how manufacturers sidestep laws meant to keep the drugs out of the hands of young people.

I have enclosed a copy of *Synthetic Drugs: What You Need to Know* for your use. Please join us in the fight against synthetic drugs by helping us distribute this fact sheet.

Thank you for your assistance in raising awareness of this important issue. If you have or need information, on synthetic drugs, please visit my Web site at [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/syntheticdrugs.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/syntheticdrugs.html) or contact Cara Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff via phone at 312-814-2970 or email at [csmith@atg.state.il.us](mailto:csmith@atg.state.il.us).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Madigan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Madigan  
Attorney General