

Date: Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 2005  
Ref: 1-83-14434

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**  
**Judicial Branch**

***Executive Order to All Judicial Authorities Nationwide***

***Among the legal obligations of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education is the implementation of programs necessary for the prevention of transmission of communicable diseases aimed at harm reduction and maintenance of public health and well-being of society based on guidelines required to fulfill its mission. One of interventions has been done by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education includes provision of needles, syringes and other material used individually by drug addicts and AIDS patients as well as methadone maintenance treatment programs as means of combating HIV and Hepatitis infections among drug addicts. According to the Ministry some judicial authorities have considered such an intervention as ally to crime subject to punitive action, thus unintentionally impeding the implementation of health and treatment programs aimed at prevention and combating the transmission of dangerous contagious diseases.***

***Thus, this is to remind judges at all courts of justice and prosecutors' offices throughout the country that since a major element of accompaniment in crime needs to be verification of malicious intent, the said interventions are clearly void of such malicious intent but rather motivated by the will to fulfill the mission of protecting society from the spread of deadly contagious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis. Therefore all judicial authorities must consider the lack of malicious intent in the interventions of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education as well as those of other centers and organizations which are active in this field and not accuse the service providers with unfair characterization of accompaniment in the criminal abuse of narcotics and not impede the implementation of such needed and fruitful programs.***

**Seyed Mahmood Hashemi Sharoudi**  
**Head of the Judiciary**  
**Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 2005**