

Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana & Cannabis Full Guide

Getting your medical marijuana card in Pennsylvania is a lot easier than you might think. You can do most of it online, and there are many registered physicians throughout the state available to help you become certified. Thank you for visit RISE; we are here to help you understand the medical marijuana laws in Pennsylvania and how to get the most out of your therapy.

Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Laws & Regulations

The legal history of "Medical Marijuana In Pennsylvania."

On April 17, 2016, Pennsylvania became the 24th state to legalize medical marijuana. The bill was signed by Governor Tom Wolf, and dispensaries were allowed to start selling products to licensed patients about ten months later.

The bill passed allows patients to purchase liquid, oil, pills, tinctures, and topicals. The bill outlawed smoking it but does allow for nebulization and vaporization. In May 2018, dispensaries were permitted to sell flower that patients could vaporize or nebulize.

Is Marijuana Legal in Pennsylvania?

The [possession and sale](#) of marijuana to the general public are not legal in Pennsylvania. A 30-day supply of medical marijuana purchased by a medical marijuana cardholder from a dispensary in Pennsylvania is legal. If you are a certified medical marijuana cardholder in the state of Pennsylvania, you may possess up to a 30-day supply of medical marijuana products.

Some cities in Pennsylvania have decriminalized the possession of up to 30 grams of marijuana for everyone. That said, possession is technically illegal by anyone not holding a card and, at minimum, will be fined if they are found to be in possession.

Pennsylvania Local Decriminalization

As of October of 2020, Bethlehem, Erie, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Upper Darby Township, and State College have decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana. In most regions, the punishment for having less than 30 grams of marijuana is a \$25 fine and seizure of the drugs. If you are caught smoking it, the fine is usually around \$100, along with the seizure of the remaining drugs. Previously, the penalty for having less than 30 grams was a \$500 fine and up to 30 days in jail.

Pennsylvania is working toward a recreational marijuana bill, complete decriminalization of small amounts, and expungement for past crimes. Senators Sharif Street (D) and Dan Laughlin (R) are planning to present a [bill that will legalize](#) recreational use later this year. Governor Wolf has also said this was a priority of his for 2021.

Cultivation and Possession of Medical Cannabis

Limits on Purchasing Medical Marijuana in Pennsylvania

As stated above, a medical marijuana patient may purchase up to 30 grams or a 30-day supply of marijuana and cannabis products. Additionally, a dispensary is not allowed to sell one cardholder more than that at a time.

Growers and Processors

Currently, the state awards up to 25 permits for growers/processors. Of the 25 permitted to do so, only five can dispense. Growers and processors must go through a rigorous and costly application process. They must prove that they are able to grow in compliance with security, zoning, and diversity regulations. The application comes with a \$10,000 non-refundable fee, a refundable permit fee of \$200,000, and show proof of at least \$2 million in capital.

These rules ensure that your medical marijuana is coming from a well-vetted organization that is focused on your wellbeing.

Taxes and Fees

Taxes and fees on medical marijuana, charged directly by the government, are taken from growers/processors. They pay a 5% excise tax on the sales they make to dispensaries. Patients are not required to pay a tax to the state for their purchases. Patients do need to pay an annual fee for their card.

Usage Limitations

Medical marijuana use is strictly limited to private spaces. Generally, the residences of medical marijuana patients. A medical marijuana cardholder is not permitted to consume their products in public places or in private places where they are not permitted to.

Medical marijuana products can be vaporized, nebulized, topically applied, and ingested. Smoking the flower is still illegal in the state for everyone.

Importing and Exporting

Transportation of Medical Marijuana in Pennsylvania

Individuals with 30 grams or less and holding a medical marijuana license may transport their therapeutics from the dispensary to home. License holders that are immobile can authorize up to two caretakers to transport the marijuana home for them. It is important to remember that these caretakers need to have approval from the Department of Health to do this.

As with alcohol transportation, you are fine as long as the item is placed away from you and safely sealed. Consuming or having open products in the car can lead to a DUI charge, even if you hold a medical marijuana card.

Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana and Drug DUI Laws

Even though many cities in Pennsylvania have decriminalized holding small amounts of marijuana, a marijuana associated DUI is still a serious crime no matter who you are. Being charged with a cannabis DUI can result in a felony, a \$5,000 fine, and up to six months in jail.

Make sure you have your errands done or are no longer feeling the effects of the marijuana before you drive. If you are pulled over, THC levels can be tested for at the station by blood/urine test, or probable cause can be established if you have marijuana in your possession and appear to be intoxicated. Please, avoid driving after using your medicinals.

How to Get a Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana

How to Apply for a Medical Marijuana Card in PA

Pennsylvania has a three-step process for patients to obtain a medical cannabis card.

- Register with the Department of Health
- Get an official certification from a medical marijuana approved practitioner.
- Complete the registration.
- Receive your card in the mail and seek out a dispensary.

What documents are required?

The registration process can be completed online. The only document that you will need to show yourself is your state ID or driver's license. Your approved physician will enter your eligibility from their office.

How long does it take to get a Pennsylvania medical marijuana card?

It generally takes between five days and two weeks to receive your card in the mail after completing the registration and being certified by an approved doctor.

How much is the medical marijuana ID card?

The card itself comes with an annual \$50 fee. People on assistance programs may qualify for a waiver. Programs include WIC, Medicaid, PACE/PACENET, SNAP, and CHIP.

If you are not already seeing a state approved medical cannabis doctor, the initial visit could cost up to \$200. Your insurance coverage will depend on your policy.

Your annual renewal includes recertification by your approved doctor.

Qualifying Debilitating Medical Conditions

If you have one of the following [qualifying conditions](#), you can become certified to use medical marijuana legally in the state of Pennsylvania.

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- Anxiety disorders.
- Autism.
- Cancer, including remission therapy.
- Crohn's disease.
- Damage to the nervous tissue of the central nervous system (brain-spinal cord) with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, and other associated neuropathies.
- Dyskinetic and spastic movement disorders.
- Epilepsy.
- Glaucoma.
- HIV / AIDS.
- Huntington's disease.
- Inflammatory bowel disease.
- Intractable seizures.
- Multiple sclerosis.
- Neurodegenerative diseases.
- Neuropathies.
- Opioid use disorder for which conventional therapeutic interventions are contraindicated or ineffective, or for which adjunctive therapy is indicated in combination with primary therapeutic interventions.
- Parkinson's disease.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain.
- Sickle cell anemia.
- Terminal illness.
- Tourette syndrome.

Can I go to a dispensary without a card in Pennsylvania?

The Pennsylvania cannabis laws restrict dispensaries from allowing anyone without a medical marijuana card in Pennsylvania into the dispensary. If you do not have a card, you will not be allowed inside the facility. Once you have your card, remember to bring your state ID with you as well to be admitted.

Where Can I Legally Buy Medical Marijuana in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvanian medical marijuana cardholders can purchase cannabis products at any one of the 75 dispensaries located throughout the state. It is important to remember that dispensaries are not able to accept credit as a form of payment. Most dispensaries will accept cash, most will accept your debit card, and others will have an ATM on site. You can check online or call ahead to make sure you are bringing the correct form of payment.

How can I join the RISE Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana community?

The RISE, Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana community, offers Pennsylvania medical cannabis cardholders many benefits. You can earn money back on purchases, be notified about events, causes we support, and special deals. RISE understands that you may be new to the idea of medical marijuana in Pennsylvania; we regularly host Q&A sessions about the laws and regulations surrounding treatment. To join the community, get your card by following the steps above and visit your nearest RISE dispensary.

Answers to Other Common Questions About Medical Marijuana in Pennsylvania

Will they take my gun if I get my medical marijuana card?

No, your firearms will not be taken when once you become a registered medical marijuana cardholder in Pennsylvania. Your medical cannabis status is protected under HIPPA. No one but yourself can share this information unless it is directly related to your care.

You will be able to keep your firearms, as well as a concealed carry permit. Additionally, your employer will not be able to access this information on their own.

Do I need a medical card for a CBD?

There are CBD products that contain THC and that do not. For CBD products that do not contain THC, you do not need a medical marijuana card in the state of Pennsylvania. CBD products that you can buy a dispensary will contain THC, and you do need a medical marijuana card to purchase those.

Can medical patients grow in Pennsylvania?

Medical marijuana patients in Pennsylvania are currently not allowed to grow plants in their homes. It does look like patients will be allowed to do so in the future. As things stand now, you will face the same charges as someone without a card if you are found to be growing plants in your home.

Whether you intended to sell or not, the charges for cultivation are a fine up to \$15,000 and 2.5 to 5 years of incarceration. The penalties are steeper if you live near a school.

Does a medical card show up on a background check?

Your medical marijuana cardholding status in Pennsylvania will not show up on a background check or on your state issued ID. Your medical marijuana prescription status is protected under the federal HIPPA laws.

Can you get fired for failing a drug test with a medical card?

Your employer is not required to accommodate your cannabis use in the state of Pennsylvania. If your employer randomly drug tests, you may consider using cannabinoid products with no THC like CBD. If you use marijuana for medicinal uses and your employer finds that you have THC in your system, they can fire you.

It is ultimately up to you whether you disclose your use to your employer or not. Use your better judgment. While they cannot access the information that you are a registered patient once you tell them, they can legally make decisions regarding that information.

How much marijuana can I purchase a one time with my Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana card?

You can purchase up to a 30-day supply of medical cannabis products. Technically speaking, a pharmacist at the dispensary will determine what that quantity is for your needs. So, it is up to the dispensary how much a 30-day supply is for your needs.

Could I be Ineligible for a Medical Marijuana Card In Pennsylvania?

You could be [ineligible](#) for a card if you have been convicted of a drug-related offense in the last five years. You may also be ineligible if you have a history of drug abuse.

The Wrap

Once you have your medical marijuana card in Pennsylvania, come and join the RISE community. We are here to answer your questions about the laws in Pennsylvania and how to best use your new prescription. Medical marijuana is different for everyone.

Individual patent care is important to us. Leave us a message with your questions, and we will be happy to answer them.