



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Legal

#### 1. Can I use cannabis?

You can legally use cannabis if you are 21 or older. You can also use cannabis if you are 18 or older and have a current qualifying physician's recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card.

#### 2. What about medicinal cannabis use?

Under medical cannabis laws, if you have a qualifying physician's recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card you can:

- Use cannabis if you are 18 and older, and
- Possess up to eight ounces of dried cannabis and up to six mature or 12 immature cannabis plants unless the physician's recommendation specifies a higher amount.
- With a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card, you do not have to pay sales tax when you buy cannabis, but you do have to pay other taxes.

#### 3. How much cannabis can I legally have?

If you are 21 or older (or have a current qualifying physician's recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card), you can buy and possess up to one ounce (28.5

grams) of cannabis and up to eight grams of concentrated cannabis. You can also plant, harvest, dry, and process up to six cannabis plants in your private residence or on the grounds of your residence.

#### 4. Can I sell or give away cannabis?

To sell cannabis, you need a license from the California Bureau of Cannabis Control.

You can give away up to one ounce (28.5 grams) of cannabis and up to eight grams of concentrated cannabis to a person 21 or older, but you cannot receive money or any form of compensation.

#### 5. Where can I buy cannabis?

You can only buy cannabis at retail outlets licensed by the California Bureau of Cannabis Control.

Medical cannabis patients can only buy from a licensed medicinal retailer.

#### 6. Where can I use cannabis?

You can use cannabis on private property. You cannot use, smoke, eat, or vape adult-use cannabis in public places. Property owners and landlords can ban the use and possession of cannabis on their premises.

You cannot use cannabis within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center, or youth center while children are present.

**7. What serious medical condition(s) do I need to have in order to get a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card?**

You can obtain a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card, if you have any of the following medical conditions:

- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Anorexia
- Arthritis
- Cachexia
- Cancer
- Chronic pain
- Glaucoma
- Migraine
- Severe nausea
- Persistent muscle spasms, including, but not limited to, spasms associated with multiple sclerosis. Seizures, including, but not limited to, seizures associated with epilepsy
- Any other chronic or persistent medical symptom that either:
  - Substantially limits your ability to conduct one or more major life activities as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336).
  - If not alleviated may cause serious harm to your safety or physical or mental health.

**8. Is cannabis legal in all California cities and counties?**

Cities and counties may have stricter laws than the state and can ban the growing, manufacturing and selling of cannabis completely. Know your local cannabis laws.

**9. Can I carry cannabis around with me?**

You can carry up to one ounce (28.5 grams) of cannabis and up to eight grams of concentrated cannabis.

**10. Can I carry cannabis in my car?**

It is against the law for you to have an open container of cannabis in a car or other vehicle while driving, operating or riding in the passenger seat. If you have cannabis in a vehicle, it must be in an approved sealed package or container. Otherwise, it must be kept in the trunk of the vehicle.

Even if you have a valid physician's recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card, it is illegal to smoke cannabis in an operating vehicle.

**11. Can I get a DUI if I drive while I am high?**

Yes. If you are under the influence of cannabis while operating a car, boat, or other vehicle, a law enforcement officer can pull you over and conduct a sobriety test.

**12. What about federal law?**

Even though cannabis is legal in California, it is

not legal under federal law. You cannot possess cannabis on federal lands such as national parks, even if the park is in California.

**13. Can I leave California with cannabis?**

No. It is illegal to take cannabis across state lines, even if you are traveling to another state where cannabis is legal.

**14. Now that cannabis is legal, can my employer prohibit me from using?**

Yes. Even though it is legal in California, employers have the right to prohibit the use of cannabis by their employees. Know your workplace cannabis policies.

**Safe and Responsible Use**

**15. Is it true that cannabis is stronger now than it was years ago?**

Yes. The way cannabis plants are grown has changed over the past few decades. Many plants now contain higher amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active ingredient in cannabis. The higher the THC content, the stronger the effects on your brain and behavior.

A higher concentration of THC may result from using newer methods of cannabis like dabbing, vaping, and/or consuming edibles.

**16. How do I store cannabis safely?**

Put cannabis away every time. Never leave it out.

Store all cannabis products where children cannot see or reach them. Keep cannabis in the

child-resistant packaging from the store. You may want to consider purchasing a locked box.

Cannabis affects children more strongly than adults. Children are at higher risk for cannabis poisoning, especially from edibles.

If you think a child may have ingested cannabis, call the Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222. If you think a child needs immediate medical help, call 911.

Keep cannabis out of reach of pets too. If you think your pet may have eaten cannabis, call your veterinarian.

**17. What should I know about consuming edibles safely?**

It can take between 30 minutes and two hours to feel the effects of edibles like cookies, sodas, and ice cream.

Start with less than a single serving (less than 10 mg of THC), then wait before using more. It is important to know about the delayed effects of edibles because if you eat too much too fast, you are at higher risk of poisoning.

**18. Is it possible to overdose on cannabis?**

A fatal overdose is unlikely. However, smoking or eating high concentrations of THC can affect your judgment, perception, and coordination, and may lead to poisoning, overdose, injuries and accidents.

**19. Can secondhand cannabis smoke affect nonsmokers and children?**

Yes. Secondhand cannabis smoke contains THC

and many of the same toxins and chemicals found in tobacco smoke. These toxins can be harmful to those around you, especially babies and children.

**20. Will cannabis affect my driving?**

Yes. Cannabis can negatively affect the skills you need to drive safely, including reaction time, coordination and concentration.

Driving under the influence of cannabis is illegal and increases your risk of getting into a car crash.

If you are under the influence of cannabis while operating a car, boat, or other vehicle, a law enforcement officer can pull you over and conduct a sobriety test.

**Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women**

**21. If I am pregnant, should I use cannabis to relieve nausea?**

No. Using any form of cannabis is not recommended for women who are pregnant or who plan to be pregnant soon. If you already use cannabis for medicinal purposes, ask your doctor for an alternative treatment shown to be safe during pregnancy.

Talk to your doctor about any questions you have about cannabis.

**22. Can using cannabis harm my baby while I am pregnant or breastfeeding?**

Yes. Using any form of cannabis is not recommended for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, or who plan to become pregnant soon.

Research shows that if you use cannabis while you are pregnant or breastfeeding the growth and development of your baby's brain can be harmed, and your baby is more likely to be born with a lower birth weight and have health problems.

Talk to your doctor about any questions you have about cannabis.

**Youth**

**23. Is cannabis harmful to teens and young adults?**

Yes. The brain is still developing until a person reaches their mid-20s. Using cannabis regularly in your teens and early 20s may lead to physical changes in your brain.

Cannabis can harm a young person's memory and ability to learn and pay attention. Some studies suggest a permanent impact as well. These harmful effects may make it harder for youth to achieve their educational and professional goals and impact how successful they are in life.

Cannabis use also increases the risk for anxiety, depression, suicide and schizophrenia as well as substance use or abuse.

**24. What happens if I am under 21 and caught carrying or using cannabis?**

If you are under 21 and caught in possession of cannabis you will be required to complete drug education or counseling and community service (unless you have a current qualifying physician's

recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card).

You could also face additional penalties (fines and jail time) depending on where you are, whether it is your second offence and other factors.

## Parents and Mentors

### 25. How should I talk to my child or teen about cannabis?

- Talk openly and provide guidance about the risks of using cannabis.
- Stay positive and focus on how using cannabis can get in the way of achieving goals.
- Set shared guidelines and expectations for healthy behaviors.
- Be aware of your own attitudes and behaviors.