



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CANNABIS

PARAMETERS FOR LEGAL USE

WHO CAN USE CANNABIS?

As of 1/1/2020, under Illinois law, adults 21 or older can legally possess and use cannabis (marijuana, weed, pot, etc.). If you are under 21 and caught in possession of cannabis you will face legal ramifications, as will the person over 21 who supplied it to you.

HOW MUCH CAN I POSSESS?

Illinois residents 21+ can possess **up to 30 grams of cannabis flower, 5 grams of cannabis concentrate such as wax or oil, or 500 milligrams of THC** within cannabis-infused products. Adults 21+ who are visiting Illinois may possess up to half of these amounts.

WHO CAN BUY AND SELL CANNABIS?

Only licensed marijuana dispensaries registered with the state may sell cannabis in Illinois. Anyone age 21+ can buy up to the legal limit from one of these dispensaries. No individual is allowed to sell marijuana.

CAN I GIVE CANNABIS AS A GIFT?

Yes, as long as the person you are giving it to is age 21+ and you do not receive any form of payment in exchange.

CAN I GROW MY OWN CANNABIS?

No. You may only grow cannabis in Illinois if you are a current medical marijuana card holder. Current medical marijuana card holders may grow up to 5 plants.

WHERE CAN I USE CANNABIS?

In a private home where the public can't see you, you're not near anyone underaged, and the property owner approves. Use is also allowed in some cannabis related businesses. Marijuana use is illegal everywhere else.

CAN I DRIVE WITH CANNABIS IN THE CAR?

Yes, as long as you don't cross state lines and keep it is in a sealed container and out of reach of the driver.

CAN I USE CANNABIS WHILE DRIVING?

No. It is neither legal nor safe to use cannabis while operating any motorized vehicle (this includes boats and motorcycles). Doing so can result in a DUI. Law enforcement has the right to pull over anyone and request a field sobriety test.

CAN MY EMPLOYER OR LANDLORD PROHIBIT ME FROM USING CANNABIS?

Yes. If you are on their property, you must follow their rules about cannabis use. Review your workplace cannabis policies and your lease agreement for clarification before using.

CAN I LEAVE ILLINOIS WITH CANNABIS?

No. By federal law, it is illegal to travel outside of state lines by any method of transportation (car, bus, bike, boat, foot, etc) with any amount of cannabis. All cannabis bought in Illinois must be stored and consumed in Illinois.



RESPONSIBLE USE

IS IT TRUE THAT CANNABIS IS STRONGER NOW THAN IT USED TO BE?

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.

WHAT IS A NORMAL DOSE OF CANNABIS?

A single dose is considered 10mg of THC. However, every method is different and everyone reacts differently, so starting with less than 10mg can help control the effects.

IS IT SAFE TO BUY FROM A DEALER INSTEAD OF A DISPENSARY?

No. Dealers are not regulated, meaning you have no way of knowing what you're actually buying.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ME TO FEEL THE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS?

It depends on individual characteristics, how frequently you use, how you use it, and how much you take.

You may feel the effects of smoking or vaping right away, but edibles can take around 30 minutes to kick in and most people don't feel the full effect of their dose until 2 hours after consumption.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO OVERDOSE ON CANNABIS?

Yes, while a fatal overdose is unlikely, it may lead to poisoning, injuries, and accidents. That's because consuming high concentrations of THC can affect your judgment, perception, and coordination.

WILL CANNABIS AFFECT MY DRIVING?

Yes. Cannabis can negatively affect the skills you need to drive safely, including reaction time, coordination, and concentration, which increases your risk of getting into a car crash.

HOW DO I STORE MY CANNABIS TO KEEP MY CHILDREN AND PETS SAFE?

Keep all marijuana products in their original child-resistant packaging and designate a hidden and locked location where your children and pets cannot reach them.

- If you think a child has ingested cannabis, call the Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222
- Dial 911 if you believe a child needs immediate medical help

IS CANNABIS DANGEROUS TO MY PETS?

Pet owners should treat cannabis, including cannabis-containing edibles, like prescription medications and keep them out of the reach of pets. **Dogs are especially attracted to edibles that contain chocolate, and chocolate can be very dangerous to them.** If you suspect your pet has ingested a cannabis-containing product, please contact your veterinarian immediately for advice on treatment.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF USING CANNABIS?

Cannabis smoke contains many of the same toxins and chemicals found in tobacco smoke. Smoking marijuana can lead to an increased risk of bronchitis, cough, and phlegm production. Inhaling this smoke, even secondhand, can increase your risk of developing lung problems.



ARE THERE ADDED RISKS FOR REGULAR CANNABIS USE?

Routine marijuana users are significantly more likely than nonusers to **develop long-lasting mental disorders**, including schizophrenia, anxiety, depression, and suicide.

HOW DOES CANNABIS AFFECT YOUNG ADULTS?

Using cannabis regularly in your teens and early 20s may lead to physical changes in your brain that **can permanently harm your memory, learning, and attention**. This can seriously affect your ability to reach future goals.

IS IT OK TO USE CANNABIS IF I'M PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING?

No. 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. If you use while pregnant your baby is also more likely to be born with a low birth weight and have health problems.



If you have additional questions regarding non-medical marijuana use in Illinois, please email letstalkcannabisIL@prevention.org.

Sources listed on How To Use Cannabis Responsibly Fact Sheet, Using Marijuana Under 21 Fact Sheet, Talking to Your Kids About Cannabis Fact Sheet, Cannabis and New or Expecting Moms Fact Sheet, and Public Act 101-0027: <https://bit.ly/2EXAJSb>.