



RESTRICTIONS ON THE CONSUMPTION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA

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MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN CONNECTICUT

Medical marijuana is regulated by the [Department of Consumer Protection](#) (DCP).

After receiving certification from his or her physician, a [qualifying patient](#) diagnosed with certain debilitating medical conditions may register with DCP to obtain and use medical marijuana.

According to DCP, there were [5,357](#) registered medical marijuana patients in Connecticut as of August 2015.

ISSUE

Does state law restrict where a registered medical marijuana patient may consume marijuana?

SUMMARY

The medical marijuana law generally provides that patients who meet the law's requirements must not be arrested, prosecuted, otherwise penalized, or denied any right or privilege for medical marijuana use. But this protection does not apply if the patient's marijuana use endangers the health or well-being of someone else, other than the primary caregiver. It also does not apply if the patient consumes marijuana:

1. (a) in a way that exposes someone under age 18 to secondhand marijuana smoke or (b) within the direct line of sight of someone under age 18;
2. in a public place (i.e., any area used or held out for use by the public, whether owned or operated for public or private interests);
3. in a motor bus, school bus, or other moving vehicle;
4. at work; or
5. on school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college, or university property ([CGS § 21a-408a](#)).



In addition, Connecticut regulations prohibit the consumption of marijuana on dispensary premises. A dispensary is a place of business licensed by DCP to dispense or sell marijuana at retail to patients and caregivers ([Conn. Agency. Regs., § 21a-408-35, 21a-408-23](#)).

The regulations also specify that the DCP commissioner may revoke or suspend a patient's medical marijuana registration certificate, in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, for various reasons. This includes using marijuana:

1. in a place or manner not permitted by the medical marijuana law or regulations or
2. in a manner that puts others at risk or failing to take reasonable precautions to avoid putting others at risk ([Conn. Agencies. Regs., § 21a-408-8](#)).

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