



**Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health**



**Health Regulation and Licensing
Administration**

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM
CAREGIVER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Question: What is a caregiver?

Answer: A caregiver is a person who:

- (a) Is designated by a qualifying patient as the person authorized, on the qualifying patient's behalf, to possess, obtain from a dispensary, dispense and assist in the administration of medical marijuana;
- (b) Is registered with the Department as the qualifying patient's caregiver;
- (c) Is not currently serving as the caregiver for another qualifying patient; and
- (d) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Questions: How should I transport medical marijuana?

Answer: A caregiver may only transport medical marijuana in a container or sealed package bearing the label received from the dispensary.

Question: Can I administer medical marijuana in the patient's dispensary?

Answer: A caregiver may not administer medical marijuana at a dispensary or cultivation center.

Question: Where can I obtain medical marijuana?

Answer: A caregiver shall only possess, administer, or dispense medical marijuana, or possess paraphernalia, obtained from the registered dispensary designated on his or her patient's registration identification card.

Question: How much medical marijuana can I obtain for my patient?

Answer: The maximum amount of medical marijuana any caregiver may possess at any time is:

- (a) Two (2) ounces of dried medical marijuana; or
- (b) The equivalent of two (2) ounces of dried medical marijuana when sold in any other form.

Question: Can I use medical marijuana?

Answer: No; a caregiver shall only possess and dispense medical marijuana to a patient, and possess paraphernalia **for the sole purpose** of assisting in the administration of medical marijuana to a qualifying patient.

Question: What should I do with medical marijuana once I am no longer registered in the program?

Answer: A caregiver who is no longer registered with the program or eligible for registration with the program shall within fourteen (14) calendar days after he or she ceases to be registered or eligible for registration with the Department return any unused medical marijuana in his or her possession to the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department.

Question: Can I be registered as a caregiver for multiple patients?

Answer: No, a caregiver may only be registered with one (1) qualifying patient.

Question: Who is responsible for paying the required criminal background check fee?

Answer: All fees associated with the criminal background check shall be paid by the caregiver.

Question: What are the registration and renewal fees to register as a caregiver?

Answer: The registration and renewal fees are each \$100.00.

Question: What do I need to apply for a Caregiver registration?

Answer: To apply for a caregiver registration identification card, an applicant shall submit a completed application to the Department on the required forms, which shall include:

- (a) The applicant’s social security number, or if the applicant does not have a social security number, the applicant shall:
 - (1) Submit with the application a sworn affidavit, under penalty of perjury, stating that he or she does not have a social security number; and
 - (2) Provide the Department with his or her social security information once a social security number has been obtained;
- (b) Two (2) recent passport-type photographs of the applicant’s face measuring two inches by two inches (2 in. x 2 in.), which clearly expose the area from the top of the forehead to the bottom of the chin;
- (c) One (1) clear photocopy of a U.S., state or District government-issued photo ID, such as a driver’s license, as proof of identity;
- (d) His or her residential address, which shall not be a post office box number;
- (e) Authorization of the Department to conduct a criminal background check, which shall include consent to be fingerprinted in accordance with applicable District and federal laws and regulations; and
- (f) Payment of the required application fee.

Question: Can I receive a reduced caregiver registration fee if my income is below the federal poverty level?

Answer: The initial registration fees for a caregiver whose income is equal to or less than two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of the published standard caregiver registration fee are as follows:

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| (a) | Initial registration fee for a caregiver | \$25.00 |
| (b) | Renewal fee for a caregiver | \$25.00 |

Question: Are my records confidential?

Answer: Applications and supporting information submitted by caregivers shall be confidential and subject to the protections of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, as amended, and other applicable privacy laws and privileges.

Question: How long is my registration valid?

Answer: Registration cards expire one (1) year after the date of issuance.

Question: How do I know when it is time to renew?

Answer: Not later than sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of a registration identification card, caregivers may apply for renewal of registration cards.

Question: Can I buy medical marijuana from other states for my patient?

Answer: No; all medical marijuana must be purchased from a dispensary located in the District of Columbia and registered with the DC Department of Health.

Question: What do I do if my patient no longer qualifies for medical marijuana?

Answer: Within fourteen (14) days after receiving notice that a patient no longer qualifies for medical marijuana, the caregiver must:

- (a) Surrender his or her registration card to the Department of Health
- (b) Return any unused medical marijuana to the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department

Question: What do I do if my patient no longer wants me to be their caregiver?

Answer: Within fourteen (14) days after receiving notice that a patient has designated a different person to serve as his or her caregiver, the caregiver must:

- (a) Surrender his or her registration card to the Department
- (b) Return any unused medical marijuana to the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department