

# KENTUCKY LAW AND MEDICAL CANNABIS



The Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program was created with the passage of Senate Bill 47 and will go into effect on January 1, 2025. Certified medical practitioners will be able to provide a written recommendation for the use of medical marijuana/cannabis to patients with an approved health condition. However, marijuana/cannabis remains illegal at the federal level and poses risks to those who use it, so Kentucky has established rigorous rules for the who, what, when, and how of recommending and using marijuana.

## Who Can Prescribe?

Marijuana/cannabis cannot be prescribed to any patient, due to being a federally illegal substance that hasn't been approved as medicine by the FDA. Doctors and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses that have been approved by their state licensing board will be allowed to provide a written recommendation for the use of medical marijuana/cannabis to patients with qualifying medical conditions.

Providers may only provide recommendations to Kentucky residents that they have an established bona-fide practitioner-patient relationship with. Providers are also required to inform their patients about the risks and benefits of marijuana/cannabis based on their patients' qualifying conditions and medical history.

## Qualifying Conditions

- Any type or form of cancer
- Chronic or severe pain
- Epilepsy or other intractable seizure disorder
- Multiple sclerosis, muscle spasms, or spasticity
- Chronic nausea or cyclical vomiting syndrome
- Post-traumatic stress disorder

## What is legal vs illegal with the use of medical marijuana/cannabis?

While Kentucky law will allow for the use of medical marijuana/cannabis for qualified medical conditions, there are still restrictions on its use.

### While at **WORK**

Employers are not required to accommodate employee use of medical marijuana and can still enforce drug-free workplace laws and drug-test employees.

### While at **HOME**

Growing marijuana/cannabis at home is prohibited.

### While operating a motorized **VEHICLE**

Patients cannot operate any vehicle or machinery while under the influence of medical marijuana/cannabis

### While on **PROPERTY**

Medical marijuana is not allowed on federal property, in federal buildings, or other public or private places where prohibited. Schools may continue prohibiting marijuana on their campuses.