



Stay Safe Alaska Personal Use and Possession of Marijuana

Beginning Tuesday, February 24, 2015, people age 21 and over can legally possess, outside of their homes, up to an ounce of marijuana and can grow up to six plants in their home (with up to three being mature, flowering plants). Adults may also give up to an ounce of marijuana and up to six plants to another adult.

Private consumption will be completely legal for adults, although public consumption remains illegal.

February 24th is also the start of a nine-month rulemaking process for the state to craft rules around the commercial aspects of legalization. Governor Walker has introduced a bill to the Alaska State Legislature that would, if passed, create a Marijuana Control Board. That board will work with the public, stakeholders, municipal governments and the Legislature to craft rules that best protect public health and public safety for Alaskans and its visitors.

What should I know now?

Who is allowed to use marijuana?

Anyone over the age of 21 is allowed to possess or consume marijuana. This includes state residents and adults visiting from other states. It is illegal to sell or give to minors under the age of 21. It is the public policy of this state that marijuana is not safe for children.

What types of marijuana products are legal?

Adults 21 years of age and older can possess marijuana flowers (the “buds”); marijuana concentrates, such as oils, hashes, and waxes; and a wide variety of marijuana-infused products, such as edibles, tinctures, and topicals. However until the commercial laws are in place these products cannot be legally purchased or sold in Alaska.

How much marijuana am I allowed to possess, and where do I obtain it?

Adults 21 years of age and older can possess up to one ounce of marijuana when outside their personal residence. In their private residences, adults 21 years of age and older are allowed to grow up to six marijuana plants, where no more than three are mature and flowering, as well as the yield of those plants in the location where it was grown.

Gift from Another Adult: Adults 21 years of age and older can give up to one ounce of marijuana to other adults 21 years of age and older as long as it does not require any form of compensation. It is illegal to sell (or re-sell) any amount of marijuana without an official business license.

Home Growing: Adults 21 years of age and older are allowed to grow up to six marijuana plants (including up to three flowering plants) in their households. It is legal to possess the yield of the plants in the location where it was produced. In other words, it is legal to privately possess more than one ounce of marijuana in your home IF you grew it yourself. Otherwise, you can only possess up to one ounce of marijuana.

Retail Marijuana Stores: Are not legal until rulemaking concludes and licenses are issued. Operating a commercial marijuana establishment is currently illegal.

Where am I allowed to consume marijuana?

Keep it private - Marijuana usage is not allowed in public.

It is legal for adults to consume marijuana privately, such as inside residences, although some property owners or homeowners associations may have policies that prohibit it. It is illegal to consume marijuana in public places, such as on streets and sidewalks or in public parks or on federal land. Violating public use laws could result in fines and other legal penalties. Therefore, you should exercise caution and check your local laws prior to consuming marijuana in any place that might be construed as public, such as hotel rooms or privately-owned businesses that are open to the public.

Don't consume and drive.

Driving while impaired is illegal, it doesn't matter what substance you are on.

If you are not sure whether you are impaired, do not drive!

Can I lose my job or face other collateral consequences for using marijuana?

Just because it is legal to possess and use marijuana in the state of Alaska does not mean it is legal to use at the workplace, or to go to work after consuming it. Testing positive for THC in your system while working in certain industries is cause for dismissal. Know your employer's drug policy. Because marijuana is still illegal under federal law, using it can result in loss of certain benefits, such as public housing assistance and college financial aid.

Can I travel with marijuana?

Federal laws make it is illegal to transport marijuana on ships, trains, and airplanes. Keep it legal and in Alaska.

Lock it up.

If children are likely to be in your home, store your marijuana in a place where they cannot get it. If you have teenagers, you should consider going a step further and locking it up, much like you would a liquor cabinet. And, of course, you should never purchase marijuana for or in any way provide it to someone under 21 years of age.

Be respectful.

Permitting the commercial production, transportation and use of marijuana is a new experience for Alaska; be respectful of your neighbors and coworkers while the laws are developing. We all want to have laws that work to keep us safe.

Never give anyone a marijuana-infused product without their knowledge; it could result in serious problems for that person and others.

Notice: Due to the interest in this issue, we have issued this public service announcement to accurately summarize the current law in the state; but Alaska statutes and regulations control legal issues related to marijuana.