

MARIJUANA WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Do you know what the laws about the use of marijuana are in Montana? Here's a quick look:

Here is a look at Montana laws about the use of marijuana in terms a parent or someone in a parenting role might encounter.

- Medical marijuana is permitted for adults 18 years old and above who have a medical marijuana card
- Minors (under age 18) are allowed to have a medical marijuana card with the consent and assistance of a parent or legal guardian
- Adult-use marijuana is allowed for adults age 21 and older (as of January 1, 2021)
- Sale of marijuana for adult- use will begin in some counties on January 1, 2022

What is illegal for those under the age of 21?

- Possess or consume marijuana unless they are a medical marijuana cardholder
- Registered cardholders may not exceed the limit of 1 ounce of usable marijuana
- Registered cardholders may not exceed the purchase limit of 1 ounce of marijuana flower per day and 5 ounces of flower per month (or the equivalent amounts of THC if purchased as edibles, topicals, etc.)
- Operate a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content greater than 0.02
- Someone under age 18 may not possess or obtain marijuana, even for medical reasons, unless they have parental consent
- Operate a motor vehicle while impaired by marijuana



What is illegal for adults?

- Provide marijuana for anyone under the age of 21 (unless you are the parent or legal guardian and listed as the marijuana provider for a minor who is a medical marijuana cardholder)
- Operate a motor vehicle while impaired by marijuana
- Possess more than 1 ounce of marijuana (until January 1, 2022 when the only legal way residents can obtain marijuana for adult-use will be to grow it themselves – and there will be a limit to how much one can grow)

Most Montana high school students (79%) do not use marijuana.

There are legal consequences!

Breaking laws regarding marijuana possession and use may result in criminal or civil charges, and penalties range from deferred sentences to fines to imprisonment

Driving under the influence of any drug or substance, whether the substance is alcohol or marijuana/cannabis, has similar legal consequences. Penalties can include jail and/or fines and increase if children (under the age of 16) are in the vehicle at the time of the offense

Among Montana high school students who have used marijuana, most tried it for the first time at 15 or 16 years old. Marijuana use in adolescence can have a range of negative impacts, from increased likelihood of dropping out of high school to increased risk of mental health issues and greater potential for addiction in adulthood.



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