

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Fact Sheet for State of Georgia Agencies

Georgia's Hope Act, passed by the Georgia General Assembly in April 2019, allows for the use of medical cannabis (low THC oil). According to the legislation, patients prescribed medical marijuana by their physicians must have a medical condition that is considered debilitating, such as cancer, Sickle cell disease, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, post-traumatic stress disorder, and any other medical condition considered to be debilitating as identified by a physician.

While physicians can certify that a patient is eligible to use low THC oil for qualifying conditions, they cannot "prescribe" low THC oil as they would traditional medication. If a physician certifies that a patient has a qualifying medical condition, then the physician can provide a recommendation that allows patients to apply for a low THC Oil Registry Card. Having a registry card permits the patient to legally possess low-THC oil for medicinal use.

In order to obtain a low THC Oil Registry card in Georgia, users must not only be a resident of the state, but their physician must also be registered with the Low THC Oil Registry as well.

What is Medical Marijuana

Medical marijuana is derived from the cannabis plant and is used for medicinal purposes. If cannabis exceeds 0.3% THC, it is considered marijuana. Georgia's law permits the use of low THC oil, which is defined as cannabis oil containing no more than 5% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive component of cannabis.

Low THC Oil Registry Card

Once a patient's medical condition has been certified, they must apply for and register with the low THC Oil Registry, which is managed through Georgia's Public Health Department.

According to [Georgia Code 31-2A-18](#), the low THC Oil Registry allows licensed physicians to certify and manage patients who have a qualifying condition to obtain low THC Oil legally.

Agencies can check the status of an employee's low THC card by going online to: <https://sendss.state.ga.us/ords/sendss/!thc.showstatus>. In order to check the status of an employee's low THC registry card, the agency would need the last name, driver's license number, and birth date of the employee (the image at the top of page 2 below shows how the

screen looks after clicking on the link). The low THC Office warns that a physician can cancel an employee's certification to use low THC, but the employee may still possess a card showing a future expiration date.

The THC oil can only be purchased from licensed dispensaries or licensed independent pharmacies. Physicians are not allowed to provide patients with THC Oil.

Card Status

CARD STATUS ONLINE:

Last Name:

GA Driver's License/State ID #:

Date of Birth: / /

CHECK STATUS

For inquiries regarding the status of your card, please contact the Department of Public Health at (770) 909-2765 or at THCRegistry@dph.ga.gov

US DOT and Federal Agencies

Federal law classifies marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance.

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) does not recognize medical marijuana and has a zero-tolerance policy for marijuana use. This policy applies to all employees in safety-sensitive positions, including those using medical marijuana. DOT's drug-testing regulations prohibit the use of marijuana even if the state has legalized this substance.

Medical Marijuana Resources

- [Medical Marijuana – FAQs](#)
- [Drug - Free and Alcohol- Free Standards - SPB Rule 21 \(4\)\(c\)](#)
- [Medical Marijuana defined – SPB Rule 21\(3\)\(u\)](#)
- [Safety Sensitive Positions - SPB Rule 21\(D\)](#)
- [Georgia Code for Low THC Oil Registry - OCGA §31-2A-18](#)
- Georgia Dept. of Public Health – Low THC Oil Registry (Register for Medical marijuana Card) - <https://dph.georgia.gov/low-thc-oil-registry>
- Job Accommodation Network (JAN) on Medical Marijuana - US DOT Medical Marijuana Notice – <https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/medical-marijuana-notice>
- Memorandum - Investigation and Prosecuting in authorizing medical marijuana use - <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/legacy/2009/10/19/medical-marijuana.pdf>
- US Coast Guard's Position on Medical Marijuana – <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Inspections-Compliance-CG-5PC-/Office-of-Investigations-Casualty-Analysis/Drug-and-Alcohol-Program/DOT-Position-on-MEDICAL-MARIJUANA/>