

# Office of Medical Marijuana Use

## Florida's Official Source for Medical Use

Know the Facts:  
Health Effects  
on Minors

Florida's medical marijuana law allows the use of medical marijuana and low-THC cannabis by patients under the age of 18, as recommended by the patient's qualified physician. However, marijuana use in adolescence can have potentially harmful and long-lasting effects on a teen's health and well-being. It is important for minors and their caregivers to be aware of the possible health effects in order to make a well-informed decision about whether medical marijuana is right for them or a loved one.

### Requirements of Minor Patients

Florida law has specific requirements for the medical use of marijuana by minors. These include:

- A qualified physician must determine that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for all patients. If the patient is younger than 18 years of age, a second physician must concur with this determination and such concurrence must be documented in the patient's medical record.
- Minor patients must first have a Consent for Minor Qualified Patient (CMP) form submitted to and approved by the Office of Medical Marijuana Use prior to beginning the Medical Marijuana Use Registry identification card application process.
- A qualified physician may not issue a physician certification for marijuana in a form for smoking to a patient under 18 years of age unless the patient is diagnosed with a terminal condition, the qualified physician determines that smoking is the most effective route of administration for the patient, and a second physician who is a board-certified pediatrician concurs with such determination.
- The certifying physician must obtain the written informed consent of the patient's parent or legal guardian before issuing a physician certification to the patient for marijuana in a form for smoking.
- If a qualified patient is younger than 18 years of age, only a caregiver may purchase or administer marijuana for medical use by the qualified patient. The qualified patient may not purchase marijuana.

### Marijuana Use During Adolescence

The teen brain is actively developing and often does not fully develop until the mid-20s. Marijuana use during this period may have negative effects on the developing brain. These effects include:

- Difficulty thinking and problem solving
- Problems with memory and learning
- Impaired coordination
- Difficulty maintaining attention

Along with the developing brain, marijuana use in adolescence can also have serious impacts on a teen's school and social life. These effects include:

- Decline in school performance
- Increased risk of mental health issues
- Impaired driving
- Potential for addiction

### For More Information:

**KnowTheFactsMMJ.com**  
**TinyURL.com/sg-minors**  
**TinyURL.com/cdc-teens**

### The Office of Medical Marijuana Use:

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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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