

Requirements for Medical Marijuana Caregivers and Purchasers



The Rhode Island Medical Marijuana Act

People who live in Rhode Island and have a debilitating medical condition may use marijuana if a medical doctor certifies that:

- Marijuana may ease their symptoms, **and**
- Potential benefits of using marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks to the patient.

Registered patients may have one registered caregiver and one authorized purchaser.

Registered caregivers

- Caregivers can grow marijuana or buy it from a compassion center for up to five patients.
- Caregivers who grow marijuana must have a Plant Tag Certificate that is issued by the Office of Cannabis Regulation at the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) and follow DBR's rules and regulations. Visit the website of the Office of Cannabis Regulation at <https://dbr.ri.gov/office-cannabis-regulation>.
- The caregiver must make sure the patient gets the medication the doctor recommends and no one else uses it.
- Caregivers can change their registration type if they do not grow marijuana and only provide patients with medical marijuana bought from compassion centers. They must have their patient change their caregiver registration to authorized purchaser in the patient's online portal account.

Requirements for caregivers and authorized purchasers

1. Must be 21 or older
2. Must live in Rhode Island and must submit a **current copy** of a:
 - Rhode Island driver's license **or**
 - Rhode Island State ID

If your driver's license or State ID does not show a current address, you will also need to provide a current copy of one of the following documents:

 - Any correspondence from another State agency, current vehicle registration, current car insurance bill, or voter's registration. This additional document must show a recent date, your name, and a current address.
3. Must get a copy of a National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) background check from a local police department, the Office of the Rhode Island Attorney General, or by appointment at the Rhode Island State Police (401-222-1110).
 - The background check must include fingerprints.
 - The law enforcement agency will send the background check results directly to RIDOH. RIDOH will send a copy to you.
 - If you had a background check from the NCIC in the past two years, you can send a copy with your application. You do not need to get a new background check.
 - RIDOH will **not** review your application until RIDOH receives your background check results.
 - Applicants can be disqualified for felony convictions including, but not limited to, felony drug convictions.

To learn more, go to www.health.ri.gov/healthcare/medicalmarijuana/for/patients.

