



Trade Practices Bureau (TPB)

WHAT IS THE TRADE PRACTICES BUREAU (TPB)?

The Trade Practices Bureau investigates and addresses violations that affect the integrity of the **business relationships and market structure** within New York’s cannabis industry—such as undue influence, hidden ownership, true party of interest (TPI) violations, fraud, and illicit sourcing of product.

TRADE PRACTICES BUREAU’S (TPB) CORE DISTINCTION

TPB has a mandate to investigate and take action against **complex trade practice violations**—especially those that pose a threat to the regulated market’s fairness and to New York’s social equity objectives. What sets TPB apart is its legal authority to issue subpoenas and pursue formal action through the Cannabis Control Board (CCB) distinguishing it from the compliance, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities handled by other OCM departments. To achieve this mission, TPB leverages the expertise of experienced investigatory attorneys and highly trained inspectors, investigators, data analysts, and forensic accountants. OCM’s endeavor to preserve fairness in the market and the value of equity and small business licenses can be found on our website at cannabis.ny.gov/tpb. **To report a complaint or incident anonymously, call our hotline at 855-420TIPS (855-420-8477) or scan the QR code to submit a report online.**



SCAN HERE

EXPANDING OCM’S TOOLS WITH A SPECIALIZED FOCUS

INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY & LEGAL TOOLS

- Operates **within** the Office of General Counsel, giving it a more formal investigative and legal review capacity than traditional compliance checks.
- Can conduct **formal reviews** using subpoenas to compel testimony and produce documents—similar to legal discovery or investigatory hearings.
- Builds cases with the possibility of presenting them to the Cannabis Control Board (CCB), which can lead to administrative proceedings or court actions.

DEPTHS OF INVESTIGATIONS

- Focuses on uncovering **complex or covert activities** that undermine New York’s cannabis market structure and social equity priorities.
- Relies heavily on interviews (sworn or unsworn), investigatory hearings, and depositions, looking beyond surface-level noncompliance issues to find deeper wrongdoing.

ROLE IN PROTECTING MARKET INTEGRITY

- Seeks to safeguard the **economic and social equity goals** set by Cannabis Law by preventing market manipulation, fraud, and exploitation of social equity licensees and smaller businesses.
- Ensures a level playing field by holding accountable those who might use prohibited financial or contractual arrangements to gain unfair advantage.

COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- Collaborates closely **with** other OCM units—like Enforcement, Investigations and Compliance—to share information on potential trade practice violations or suspicious activity.
- May also work **with** external agencies if criminal behavior surfaces.

Please email TradePractices@ocm.ny.gov if you have any further questions.