KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH CANNABIS
NEW YORK VETERANS

New York State legalized adult-use cannabis for adults **21 or older**.

People 21 or older are allowed to possess up to **3 ounces of cannabis flower and 24 grams of cannabis concentrate** (like edibles or oil).

Cannabis laws vary by location. You **cannot** smoke or vape cannabis any place where smoking is **not** allowed. **The use or possession of cannabis is prohibited at all VA medical centers, locations, and grounds regardless of state law.**

Driving while high is illegal and can put you and others at risk. Cannabis can slow reaction time and affect coordination, which increases the risk of a crash. Plan ahead for a sober ride or use public transportation.

The VA is not allowed to deny healthcare benefits to veterans solely because of cannabis use. Discussing cannabis use with your VA provider is encouraged. However, veterans who work for the VA or other employers with drug-free workplace policies and drug testing requirements, must follow their employer's rules.

It is **legal** to share cannabis within the possession limits (or give it away) **to someone 21 or older**. But it is **illegal** to trade, barter, or "gift" cannabis to someone in exchange for something else. This includes "gifting" cannabis while selling something else (like a t-shirt or a sticker).

It is **legal** to smoke or vape cannabis in most places where you can smoke or vape tobacco— like a private home or back yard. Landlords are still allowed to ban smoking (both tobacco and cannabis) in apartment buildings. Check your lease to know if this applies to you.

Cannabis **cannot** be consumed in motor vehicles, hookah/cigar bars, businesses, restaurants (including patios), federal property (including VA medical centers, locations, and grounds), and most public and state parks and beaches.

CANNABIS AND FIREARM PERMITS: WHAT VETERANS SHOULD KNOW

WHAT WE KNOW

- Federal firearm permits require applicants to answer if they use cannabis, as cannabis, including medical cannabis, is still federally illegal.
- Disclosing cannabis use on a firearms application can lead to permit denial, revocation, or firearm surrender.
- Veterans who are registered medical cannabis patients should understand state legality does not automatically protect against federal firearm rules.

THE UNKNOWN

- If federal authorities can access medical cannabis patient information.
- Limited public guidance on enforcement practices regarding veterans using medical cannabis.
- Future federal and state legal policy changes.

WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND:

Before registering for medical cannabis or completing a firearm permit application, you may want to speak with a qualified legal professional or veterans service organization to understand potential risks and protections specific to your status as a veteran.

NEW YORK MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

Anyone who has a recommendation from a New York State certifying healthcare provider can purchase medical cannabis, including veterans. **Providers may certify patients for any condition they determine is clinically appropriate.** This can include, but is not limited to: Alzheimer's, Cancer, Chronic Pain, Epilepsy, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and more.

NEW YORK STATE | Office of Cannabis Management

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