

# Some Facts about Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act



On November 4, 2008, Michigan voters passed the “Michigan Medical Marijuana Act.” This Act allows **doctor-approved use of marijuana** by **patients who have certain serious medical conditions** and who **register with the state to use and/or grow limited amounts of marijuana to treat their illness.**

## 1) Does the Act make it legal to grow and use marijuana in Michigan?

**No.** The act does not change the laws and penalties for use or distribution of marijuana under federal or state law.

The Michigan Medical Marijuana Act only allows **state registered patients and state registered caregivers to use and grow marijuana under very specific circumstances.** Other than those registered individuals no one else is allowed to grow, use or distribute marijuana.

## 2) Who can grow and use marijuana under the Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act?

**Registered Patients:** Patients with **specific, serious medical conditions**, including cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, ALS, Crohn's disease, Alzheimer's, nail patella (a rare genetic disorder) and several specific life-altering symptoms may qualify if they have the **written certification of their doctor.**

Those persons must get written certification from their doctor (M.D. or D.O.) that they have a defined medical condition and that, in the doctor's opinion, they would benefit from the medical use of marijuana. The patient can then apply to the state Department of Community Health to **register for an identification card.** As a registered patient, the person **can grow limited amounts (up to 12 plants)** of marijuana for their own use. It is illegal for them to allow others to use their marijuana. It is illegal for them to use in public, at school or drive under the influence of marijuana.

**Registered Caregivers:** A registered patient can designate a specific caregiver to assist in growing the marijuana. A registered patient can only have one caregiver and each registered caregiver can only provide marijuana to 5 registered patients. **Caregivers must be 21 or over and have no drug felony convictions.** It is illegal for a caregiver to give or sell marijuana to anyone but the registered patient(s) who have named them in their registration application. Caregivers cannot use the marijuana they grow unless they are also registered patients.

## 3) When will Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act go into effect?

The registration process will likely be in place by April, 2009. **Registration must be renewed by the patient every year.** The Department will charge each registered patient enough to make the program self-supporting.

***The growing, possessing, and use of marijuana remain illegal in the state of Michigan except for state registered patients with serious defined medical conditions.***

This information is provided by the Macomb County Office of Substance Abuse and the Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families.