



## Medical marijuana laws and rules

The **Cannabis Patient Protection Act** was signed into law April 2015 and went into full effect on July 1, 2016.

This law aligns licensing and regulation of all marijuana producers, processors, retail stores and patient cooperatives under the oversight of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLC).

The Washington State Department of Health manages the medical marijuana database system and credentialing of medical marijuana consultants who work in medically endorsed marijuana stores.

Read the specific laws and rules on the Washington State Legislature web site:

- **RCW 69.51A.290**
- **Chapter 246-72 WAC**



## Certified consultant requirements

To qualify for certification as a medical marijuana consultant the applicant must:

1. Be 21 years of age or older.
2. Pass the Department of Health-approved certified medical marijuana consultant training program.
3. Complete CPR training.
4. Apply for certification by completing and returning the certified medical marijuana consultant application form with the application fee.

## Background check

To protect the public, the department considers criminal and civil history, and other factors when processing this certification.

A criminal conviction or other negative event may not automatically bar an applicant from obtaining a certification. Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis.

A patient's guide to the ...

# Medical Marijuana Consultant

Learn more...

Washington State Department of Health  
Medical Marijuana Program

[www.doh.wa.gov/medicalmarijuana](http://www.doh.wa.gov/medicalmarijuana)

360-236-4819

[medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov](mailto:medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov)



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## Want to be a consultant?

If you would like to become a certified medical marijuana consultant that can work with patients in a licensed and medically endorsed marijuana store, see the **Department of Health web site** for more information.

# What is a medical marijuana consultant?

All licensed and medically endorsed marijuana retail stores are required to have a certified medical marijuana consultant on staff to work with patients:

## What consultants know

The Washington State Department of Health oversees the required consultant training programs. Those who take a medical marijuana consultant training will learn about:

- Washington state laws and rules.
- Qualifying conditions and the common symptoms of each.
- Short- and long-term positive and negative effects of marijuana use.
- Products that may benefit qualifying patients based on their conditions.
- The risks and benefits of various methods for using marijuana.
- Warning signs and the risks of overuse, abuse and addiction.
- Safe handling of marijuana products.
- Strategies to reduce access by minors.
- Ethics and customer privacy and rights.

## What consultants do

The certified consultant is not a medical provider and can do only the following for customers within a medically endorsed marijuana retail store:

- Enter patient and designated provider information from the authorization form into the database and create the medical marijuana recognition card.
- Assist the patient with selecting products.
- Describe risks and benefits of methods for using products.
- Give advice on ways to properly store products and keep them safe from children and pets.
- Show how to properly use products.
- Answer questions about the medical marijuana law.

## Services not allowed by consultants:

- May not provide medical advise.
- May not diagnose any conditions.
- May not recommend changing current treatment(s) in place of marijuana.
- May not open and use actual products when demonstrating how to use.



## Reporting misconduct

A certified medical marijuana consultant can work only in a licensed and medically endorsed marijuana store.

Consultants are not medical professionals and must follow strict guidelines when offering services.

If you think a certified medical marijuana consultant has over-stepped their bounds, has provided services outside the marijuana store, or interacted with you inappropriately, you may file a complaint.

## How to file a complaint

1. Get complaint form from the **Department of Health web site**
2. Fill it out completely
3. E-mail completed form to: **HSQAComplaintIntake@doh.wa.gov**

**You may also print out your completed form and mail it to:**

Washington State  
Department of Health  
Health Systems Quality Assurance  
Complaint Intake  
P.O. Box 47857  
Olympia, WA 98504-7857

**For more information**

Contact us at 360-236-2620