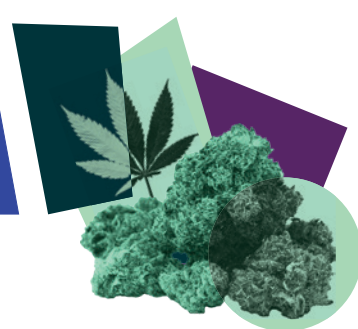


Know Your Rights: Ohio Marijuana Legalization Laws

The information provided in this FAQ is for educational purposes and is not legal advice.



Who can possess cannabis in Ohio?

Ohioans who are **21 years and older** can possess cannabis that is homegrown or purchased from a licensed Ohio dispensary.

Can I smoke marijuana in public?

No. Ohio law does not permit consumption in public places. The law limits smoking to private property and prohibits it in locations like childcare homes, places of employment, halfway houses, and property where a lease agreement prohibits it.

Can I have marijuana in my possession in public but not smoke it? (ie., joint in pocket at a public park).

Yes, people in Ohio who are 21 and over can possess up to 2.5 ounces of adult-use cannabis or 15 grams of concentrates. Property owners might place further restrictions on what is permitted on their premises.

Ohio law requires edibles to be stored in their original packing when not in use. Ohioans should also note that a law that became effective in March 2026 made it unlawful to possess cannabis from the illicit market and out-of-state dispensaries.

What about in my car?

Ohio law prohibits the operation of a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Further, it is unlawful to smoke, vaporize, or otherwise consume cannabis through combustion as a passenger in a vehicle.

Cannabis transported in a vehicle must be in its original, unopened packaging or in the trunk/behind the back row of seats in a place not easily accessible to the driver.

Can I be terminated from my job if I smoke cannabis?

Possibly! Under Ohio cannabis laws, employers can still enforce drug-free workplace policies.

Can my employer still require drug testing now that marijuana is legal?

Yes. See above.

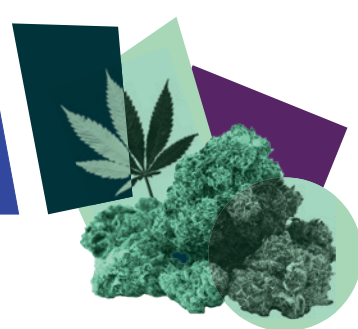
What happens if I'm stopped by law enforcement while smoking? What are my rights?

Regardless of whether or not you are smoking, **you have important rights during interactions with law enforcement.** As always, these rights are only as strong as your knowledge of them. You can find more information about interactions with law enforcement [here](#).



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Adult use cannabis is legal now, what's next?

The ACLU of Ohio endorsed Issue 2 in 2023 because of its role in stemming the tide of people into our criminal legal system because of cannabis use. However, we knew then just as much as we know now that the work is far from finished. We must legalize and repair in the wake of harmful legislative change. The failed War on Drugs has a lasting impact on our state and country, much of it falling most heavily on our Black neighbors. This is why we're continuing to push for policy reforms that repair those harms.

Are Ohio's cannabis laws permanent?

No! Issue 2 was a citizen-initiated statute, meaning that the state legislature can alter the language at any time using the legislative process. Since passage, some Issue 2 language has already been in the crosshairs of lawmakers. Keep checking the ACLU of Ohio website and our social media channels for updates about legislative action and opportunities to engage with your state lawmakers.

Where can I read more about Ohio's adult use cannabis laws and policy?

Keep an eye out for more from us soon on our website and social media channels. There is also great information available from the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center, a part of the Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law, available [here](#).

What did the regressive SB 56 (2025) actually change?

SB 56 was an affront to the will of voters who approved the citizen-initiated statute to legalize adult-use cannabis in 2023. The changes include, but are not limited to, the creation of new criminal offenses such as the possession of cannabis from out of state and a rollback of important protections for cannabis consumers. We have our work cut out for us to make sure Ohio laws both legalize and repair the harms of past criminalization.

