

Requirements for Medical Marijuana Caregivers



The Rhode Island Medical Marijuana Act

People who live in Rhode Island and have a debilitating medical condition may use marijuana if a medical doctor certifies **in writing** that:

- Marijuana may ease their symptoms, **and**
- The potential benefits of using medical marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks to the patient

Registered patients may have **one** registered caregiver and **one** authorized purchaser.

Registered caregivers

Caregivers:

- May grow marijuana or buy it from a compassion center for up to five patients
- Must register their grow location with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation
- Must receive certification for growing plants from the Department of Business Regulation (DBR)
- Must follow DBR regulations for plant tag use. To read the rules, go to www.dbr.ri.gov/divisions/medicalmarijuana.
- Must make sure the patient gets the medication the doctor recommends and no one else uses it
- May change their registration type if they do not grow marijuana and only provide patients with medical marijuana bought from compassion centers. They may change their caregiver registration to authorized purchaser.



Requirements for caregivers and authorized purchasers

1. Must be 21 years old or older
2. Must live in Rhode Island and submit a **copy** of **one** item that proves you live in the state. The item must include your name and current address. Examples of items you can use are:
 - Rhode Island driver's license
 - State ID
 - Any correspondence from another state agency, current vehicle registration, car insurance bill or voter's registration.
3. Must get a copy of a National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) background check from a local police department, the Office of the Attorney General, or by appointment with the Rhode Island State Police (401-222-1110)
 - The background check must include fingerprints.
 - The law enforcement agency will send the background check results directly to RIDOH.
 - If you had a background check from the NCIC in the past two years, you can send a copy with your application.
 - RIDOH will **not** review your application until RIDOH receives your background check results.
 - Applicants can be disqualified for felony convictions including, but not limited to, felony drug convictions.
4. Must pay a **\$100** non-refundable caregiver application fee. The fee is **\$25** if you send proof with your application that you receive one of these benefits:
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
 - Veterans disability
 - Federal Railroad disability

You can get proof of your SSI or SSDI benefit at www.ssa.gov.

To learn more, go to www.health.ri.gov/healthcare/medicalmarijuana/for/patients.

