California’s medical cannabis laws are now included in the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act.¹ If you use cannabis for medicinal purposes and have a current qualifying physician’s recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card, or if you are thinking of using cannabis for medicinal purposes, here are important facts you should know.

### Possessing and Buying Medicinal Cannabis

- Under California’s law, if you have a valid physician’s recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card you can use, possess and transport up to 8 ounces of dried cannabis and up to six mature plants (or 12 immature plants).² If you require a larger amount of cannabis, under the Compassionate Use Act, you may possess and cultivate any amount that is reasonably related to your current medical needs.³

- To buy medicinal cannabis, you must be 18 or older and have either a valid physician’s recommendation, a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card, or be a Primary Caregiver as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7(d) or 11362.5(e), with a valid physician’s recommendation for the patient.

- If you have a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card, you do not have to pay sales tax on medicinal cannabis products, but other taxes may apply.⁴

### Where You Can Use Medicinal Cannabis

- Even with a current qualifying physician’s recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card, there are limits on where you can use medicinal cannabis:
  - You cannot smoke cannabis in places where tobacco is prohibited.
  - You cannot use cannabis near a school, recreation center, youth center or on a school bus while children are present.
  - You cannot use cannabis while riding in or driving a vehicle or boat.⁵
  - Even though it is legal in California, employers have the right to prohibit the use of cannabis by their employees. Know your workplace cannabis policies.
  - Property owners may ban the use and possession of cannabis on their privately owned properties.⁶

### Obtaining a County-Issued Identification Card

You can obtain a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card if you have one or more of the following medical conditions:⁷

- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Anorexia
- Arthritis
- Cachexia
- Cancer
- Chronic pain

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**References**

2. California Business and Professions Code Section 20140 (c-1, c-2), California Business and Professions Code Sec. 5, Section 26001, California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.715 (a), Section 136
3. California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.77 (a-e)
4. Section 26001, California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.715 (a), Section 136
6. California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.785 (a)
7. California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7

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**Medicinal Use Cannabis**

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- Glaucoma
- Migraine
- Severe nausea
- Persistent muscle spasms, including, but not limited to, spasms associated with multiple sclerosis. Seizures, including, but not limited to, seizures associated with epilepsy
- Any other chronic or persistent medical symptom that either:
  - Substantially limits your ability to conduct one or more major life activities as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336).
  - If not alleviated may cause serious harm to your safety or physical or mental health.

For more information visit the California Department of Public Health, Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program.

(https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Medical-Marijuana-Identification-Card.aspx)