



District of Columbia Marijuana Penalties

 conditional  medical

		Incarceration	Fine
Possession			
Any amount	misdemeanor	6 months	\$1,000
Eligible for probation with first conviction, dismissal of charges upon completion.			
Sale or Cultivation			
Any amount	felony	5 years	\$50,000
Within 1000 feet of school or other specified area	felony	double penalty	double penalty
Sale to minor	felony	double penalty	double penalty
Miscellaneous (paraphernalia, license suspensions, drug tax stamps, etc...)			
Paraphernalia possession	misdemeanor	30 days	\$100
Paraphernalia sale	misdemeanor	6 months	\$1,000
Paraphernalia sale to a minor	felony	8 years	\$15,000
Any conviction can result in suspension of driver's license, 6 months - 2 years.			
Details			
Possession of any amount of marijuana is a misdemeanor and is punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. First time offenders are eligible for probation and dismissal of the charges upon successful completion of the probation contract.			
The cultivation, sale or delivery of any amount of marijuana is punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000. If the distribution occurs within 1000 feet of a school, pool, playground, arcade, library, youth center, or public housing or if the distribution is made to a minor the penalties can be doubled.			
Upon conviction of a drug offense, the offender's driver's license can be suspended from six months to two years.			
The possession of paraphernalia is punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$100 fine. The sale of paraphernalia is punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000 unless the sale is made to a minor, in which case the penalty increases to a possible eight years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000.			

 **Conditional release:** The state allows conditional release or alternative or diversion sentencing for people facing their first prosecutions. Usually, conditional release lets a person opt for probation rather than trial. After successfully completing probation, the individual's criminal record does not reflect the charge.

 **Medical marijuana:** This state has medical marijuana laws enacted. Modern research suggests that cannabis is a valuable aid in the treatment of a wide range of clinical applications. These include pain relief, nausea, spasticity, glaucoma, and movement disorders. Marijuana is also a powerful appetite stimulant and emerging research suggests that marijuana's medicinal properties may protect the body against some types of malignant tumors, and are neuroprotective. For more information see NORML's Medical Marijuana section. http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3376

Also see Federal Laws http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=4575

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (www.norml.org)



Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

About this Report

NORML's State Guide to Marijuana Penalties outlines most penalties for prohibited marijuana conduct in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and under federal law. To view the list of prohibited conduct and penalties, click the map icon to the left to find your jurisdiction.

Marijuana laws and penalties change rapidly and are enforced and interpreted differently even in the same legal jurisdiction. Please consult a criminal defense lawyer if you have been busted or if you want to know how a particular conduct might be punished. If you spot an error or have information that should be included in NORML's State Guide to Marijuana Penalties, please inform the NORML Foundation (foundation@norml.org).

Please note:

- The guide does not list penalties for every marijuana offense nor every enhanced sentence such as possessing marijuana near a school, involving a minor, and automatic driver's or professional license suspension. Your state may require an enhanced sentence even if the enhancement is not in the guide.
- Unless otherwise specified, please assume that listed penalties apply only to first convictions. Prior convictions often place a defendant in a higher penalty range, and convictions while on probation for a previous offense may result in revocation of probation.
- Except where indicated otherwise, a listed fine is the maximum fine for the conviction and the minimum fine is zero.
- "Possession" usually means "possessing marijuana only for personal use". If the government accuses you of possessing marijuana for other reasons, the accompanying penalties will probably exceed those for possessing marijuana for personal use. Possessing large amounts of marijuana frequently results in more serious charges of "possession with intent to distribute", "trafficking", and/or "sale".
- Many factors contribute to a defendant's sentence. Factors include level of involvement in the prohibited conduct, location, age, presence or absence of minors, use or presence of weapons, conduct for which a person has been acquitted, and many other things.
- If you are in trouble, please know your rights and hire an attorney.

Warning: The information contained in this report is for informational purposes only. Individuals are encouraged to confirm their state's laws before engaging in any particular behavior, or before going to court without a lawyer.

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Metric units to United States units of measurements:

One ounce (oz.) = 28.35 grams
One pound (lb.) = 16 ounces = 453.59 grams
One kilogram (kg.) = 1,000 grams (g) = 2.2 pounds (lbs.)