

Louisiana Marijuana Penalties

 mandatory  tax stamps

		Incarceration	Fine
Possession			
Any amount (first offense)	misdemeanor	6 months	\$500
Any amount (second offense)	felony	0-5 years	\$2,000
Any amount (third or subsequent offense)	felony	0-20 years	\$5,000
Possession within 1,000 feet of school, church or public housing	felony	MMS* of 1/2 maximum penalty	variable
*Mandatory minimum sentence.			
Sale or Cultivation (or possession with intent to sale)			
Less than 60 lbs	felony	5 - 30 years	\$50,000
60 - 2,000 lbs	felony	5 - 30 years	\$50,000 - \$100,000
2,000 - 10,000 lbs	felony	10 - 40 years	\$100,000 - \$400,000
More than 10,000 lbs	felony	25 - 40 years	\$400,000 - \$1,000,000
Sale to minor at least 3 years younger than the seller	felony	double penalty	double penalty
Sale within 1,000 feet of school, or specified areas	felony	MMS* of 1/2 maximum penalty	variable
*Mandatory minimum sentence.			
Miscellaneous (paraphernalia, license suspensions, drug tax stamps, etc...)			
Paraphernalia possession or sale (first offense)	misdemeanor	6 months	\$500
Paraphernalia possession or sale (second offense)	misdemeanor	1 year	\$1,000
Paraphernalia possession or sale (third offense)	misdemeanor or felony	5 years	\$5,000
Details			
Possession of any amount of marijuana is punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$500 for a first offense. For a second offense the penalties increase to up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000. A third or subsequent offense increases the penalty to up to 20 years in prison.			
Cultivation or sale, or possession with intent to distribute less than 60 pounds of marijuana is punishable by 5 - 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000. For greater than 60 pounds of marijuana a fine of up to \$50,000 - \$100,000. For greater than 2,000 pounds the punishment ranges from 10 - 40 years in prison and a fine of \$100,000 - \$400,000. For greater than 10,000 pounds the penalty increases to 25 - 40 years in prison and a fine of \$400,000 - \$1,000,000.			
Any sale to a minor at least three years younger than the seller doubles the possible penalties.			

NORML

Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

For felony possession or sale within 1,000 feet of a school, religious building or public housing the penalty includes a mandatory minimum sentence of at least one half of the maximum penalty for the offense.

Possession or sale of paraphernalia is punished by up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$500 for the first offense. For a second offense, the penalty increases to up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. For a third offense, the penalty is up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Mandatory minimum sentence: When someone is convicted of an offense punishable by a mandatory minimum sentence, the judge must sentence the defendant to the mandatory minimum sentence or to a higher sentence. The judge has no power to sentence the defendant to less time than the mandatory minimum. A prisoner serving an MMS for a federal offense and for most state offenses will not be eligible for parole. Even peaceful marijuana smokers sentenced to "life MMS" must serve a life sentence with no chance of parole.

Marijuana tax stamps: This state has a marijuana tax stamp law enacted. This law mandates that those who possess marijuana are legally required to purchase and affix state-issued stamps onto his or her contraband. Failure to do so may result in a fine and/or criminal sanction. For more information, see NORML's report Marijuana Tax Stamp Laws And Penalties. http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6670

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

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.

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

NORML

Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

- 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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: VOTE. JOIN NORML. <https://secure.norml.org/join/>

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.)