



### Maryland Marijuana Penalties


 mandatory  medical  hemp

		Incarceration	Fine
<b>Possession</b>			
Any amount	misdemeanor	1 year	\$1,000
<b>Sale or Cultivation</b>			
Less than 50 lbs	felony	5 years	\$15,000
50 lbs or more	felony	5 years MMS*	\$100,000
Within 1,000 feet of school or on a school bus	felony	20 years	\$20,000
Bringing 5 to 45 kg into state	felony	10 years	\$10,000
Bringing 45 kg or more into state	felony	25 years	\$50,000
*Mandatory minimum sentence.			
<b>Miscellaneous</b> (paraphernalia, license suspensions, drug tax stamps, etc...)			
Paraphernalia possession, use, sale, or advertising (first offense)	misdemeanor	none	\$500
Paraphernalia possession or sale (second and subsequent offense)	misdemeanor or felony	2 years	\$2,000
Any second or subsequent conviction can double first offense penalty.			
<b>Details</b>			
Possession or use of any amount of marijuana is punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.			
Cultivation, delivery or sale of less than 50 pounds of marijuana is punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000. For 50 pounds or more, the penalties increase to a five-year mandatory minimum sentence and a fine of up to \$100,000. If the sale occurs within 1,000 feet of a school, while the school is in session, or on a school bus, the penalty is up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$20,000.			
Bringing 5 - 45 kilograms of marijuana into the state is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. Transporting 45 kilograms or more into the state is punishable by up to 25 years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.			
Possession, use or sale of paraphernalia is a criminal fine of \$500 for the first offense. For a second or subsequent offense, the penalties increase to a term of up to two years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000.			
For any second or subsequent conviction, the sentence may double from that for a first offense.			

 **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.

## Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

 **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](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3376)

 **Hemp:** This state has an active hemp industry or has authorized research. Hemp is a distinct variety of the plant species *cannabis sativa L.* that contains minimal (less than 1%) amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Various parts of the plant can be utilized in the making of textiles, paper, paints, clothing, plastics, cosmetics, foodstuffs, insulation, animal feed, and other products. For more information see NORML's Industrial Use section. [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3377](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3377)

Also see Federal Laws [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=4575](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](mailto: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.)