

### Rhode Island Marijuana Penalties


 medical  drugged driving  tax stamps


		Incarceration	Fine
<b>Possession</b>			
Less than 1 kg	misdemeanor	1 year	\$200 - \$500
1 kg to 5 kg	felony	10 years	\$10,000 - \$500,000
More than 5 kg	felony	20 years	\$25,000 - \$100,000
Within 300 yards of a school, public park or playground	felony	double penalty	double penalty
Possession while driving causes driver's license suspension for 6 months (first offense), and 1 year (subsequent offense).			
<b>Sale or Cultivation</b>			
Less than 1 kg	felony	30 years	\$3,000 - \$100,000
1 kg to 5 kg	felony	10 years	\$10,000 - \$500,000
More than 5 kg	felony	20 years	\$25,000 - \$100,000
Delivery to a minor 3 years younger	felony	2 - 5 years	\$10,000
Within 300 yards of a school, public park or playground	felony	double penalty	double penalty
<b>Miscellaneous</b> (paraphernalia, license suspensions, drug tax stamps, etc...)			
For sentences of probation with no imprisonment, the offender is required to undergo a drug abuse evaluation, attend a drug education course and perform 100 hours of community service.			
<b>Details</b>			
Possession of less than one kilogram of marijuana is punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of \$200 - \$500.			
Driving while in possession of marijuana is penalized by suspension of the offender's driver's license for six months for the first offense and for one year for subsequent offenses.			
Manufacture or delivery of less than one kilogram of marijuana is punishable by up to 30 years in prison and a fine of \$3,000 - \$100,000. Delivery to a minor at least three years younger than the offender adds an additional 2 - 5 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. Sale or possession within 300 yards of a school, public park or playground doubles the possible penalties.			
A new law eliminating mandatory minimum drug sentences in Rhode Island has taken effect without the governor's signature. The new law, which took effect December 2009, leaves the sentence to the judge's discretion.			
For sentences of probation with no imprisonment, the offender is required to undergo a drug abuse evaluation, attend a drug education course and perform 100 hours of community service.			


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## 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)

 **Drugged driving:** This state has a per se drugged driving law enacted. In their strictest form, these laws forbid drivers from operating a motor vehicle if they have any detectable level of an illicit drug or drug metabolite (i.e., compounds produced from chemical changes of a drug in the body, but not necessarily psychoactive themselves) present in their bodily fluids above a specific threshold. For more information, see state DUID laws. [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=6669](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6669)

 **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](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6670)

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.

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- 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.)