



How To Obtain a Medical Cannabis Card In Illinois

A guideline for anyone wanting to apply to the Illinois Medical Cannabis Pilot Program. Prepared by The Illinois Medical Cannabis Community for the benefit of the patients.

***Disclaimer: This is intended to assist, not a replacement for medical or legal advice.**

***Medical Cannabis is not covered by Medicaid or Medicare.**

1 Do I qualify?

- Are you a resident of Illinois?
- Do you have a qualifying condition?
- Do you have a physician willing to sign your certification letter?
- Cannot hold a school bus permit or Commercial Driver's License.
- Cannot be an active duty law enforcement officer, correctional officer, correctional probation officer, or firefighter.

2 Terminal Patients

- Persons diagnosed with a terminal illness with a life expectancy of six (6) months or less may apply for a medical cannabis registry identification card valid for six months.
***There is no application fee.**
- Applications can be processed in two weeks due to the severity of the condition.
- Fees are the same for minors and adults. However, one caregiver is included at no charge in the application for a minor. A second caregiver may be added by completing a caregiver application and submitting a \$75.00 fee (the expiration date for the caregiver and the patient card will be the same).
- **Applications cannot be submitted on-line.**
- **Physician forms must be signed in blue ink.** The in-person physical examination must take place within 90 days of the application submission date.
- For more detailed information please visit Bit.ly/Terminal_Illness



**Remember to
double check all
your paperwork!**

3 Veterans

- Veterans who receive health services at a Veteran's Administration (VA) facility are not required to obtain a physician's written certification, but must submit 12 months of VA records to the Department with their application.
- Veterans will need to attach a copy of their DD214 showing dates of service with their character of service.
- To obtain VA medical records electronically, go to Myhealth.va.gov/index.html

4 Patients under 18

- A qualifying patient under 18 years of age may identify two designated caregivers if both biological parents or two legal guardians have significant decision-making responsibilities over the qualifying patient; or
- If only one biological parent or legal guardian has significant decision-making responsibilities for the qualifying patient under 18 years of age, then a second designated caregiver may be identified.
- Minors do not need to get livescan fingerprinting or a passport photo ID. Only their caregiver needs to accomplish this step.
- Minors are limited to oils, tinctures, edibles and patches. **NO FLOWER PRODUCTS**
- Fees are the same for minors and adults. However, one caregiver is included at no charge in the application for a minor. A second caregiver may be added by completing a caregiver application and submitting a \$75.00 fee (the expiration date for the caregiver and the patient card will be the same).
- Patient cannot qualify for reduced fee if the caregiver is on disability.
- **Application for Registry Identification Card for Qualifying Patients Under 18 and their Designated Caregiver can be downloaded at [Bit.ly/IMCPP_Under18_Form](https://bit.ly/IMCPP_Under18_Form)**
- For more detailed information please visit [Bit.ly/MinorQualifyingPatientsInfo](https://bit.ly/MinorQualifyingPatientsInfo)

5 Starting the application process

- It is easiest to gather all of your necessary documents ahead of time and have them ready when it comes time to submit your application.
- Make an appointment with your physician and print out the physician form available under Physician Information on [DPH.Illinois.gov/forms-publications](https://dph.illinois.gov/forms-publications)
- Make sure your physician completes the Physician Written Certification Form and mails it from the physician's office to the Department's Division of Medical Cannabis. The certification must be received within 90 days of your application and must show an in-person visit date within the last 90 days.
- **A general rule, if you are seeing a physician,** bring your medical records from within the past year showing treatment and or diagnosis of the qualifying condition.

6 Prepare

Start to gather documents you will need before you start the application process.

1. Proof of residency
2. Proof of identity
3. Passport photographs - 2"x2" photo, Minimum size of 600 x 600 pixels
Passport photo is not needed for minors, only their caregiver.
4. Look at the selection of dispensaries in your zone and choose one
5. Will you want to utilize a caregiver? If so they must also apply here
[Bit.ly/CareGiverApplication](https://bit.ly/CareGiverApplication)

*** Please Remember your**    
physician certification, fingerprint, background check, photo, etc.

7 Keep it simple

- **DO NOT make this more complicated than it needs to be!**
- **When entering information:**
 1. Keep it simple
 2. Answer all required fields
 3. Submit all of your application at the same time. This will help expedite the process and prevent any lost paperwork issues.

8 Application fees

At this time you will be able to apply for a 3 year registry card online. Please visit MedicalCannabisPatients.Illinois.gov to create an account and submit application online. If you wish to apply for a one-year or two-year card, please call the Medical Cannabis Registry Program at **1-855-636-3688** and request a **paper application**.

- \$125 reduced fee for those on SSI, SSDI or Veterans for a three-year registry card
- \$250 qualifying patient application fee for a three-year registry card
- \$200 qualifying patient application fee for a two-year registry card
- \$100 qualifying patient application fee for a one-year registry card
- \$75 designated caregiver fee for a three-year registry card
- \$50 designated caregiver fee for a two-year registry card
- \$25 designated caregiver fee for a one-year registry card

9 Supplemental documents

- **If you are on SSI or SSDI** you will need to Submit a "Benefit Verification Letter" from the Social Security Administration that shows your name and address and the type of benefits that are received.
- This letter must be dated within the last year. You can get this letter by using your My Social Security account online at **SSA.gov/myaccount/**

11 Approval process

- If applying after January 31st, 2019, all electronic applications will receive provisional approval immediately assuming all documentation and required paperwork has been submitted.
- Apply online at **<https://medicalcannabispatients.illinois.gov/>**
- To find out the status of your application, you may email IDPH at **DPH.medicalcannabis@illinois.gov**.

12 Renewals

- IDPH will mail a letter about extending your medical cannabis registry identification card to registered cardholders approximately **60 to 90 days before the expiration date listed on the card**.
- If you paid a reduced application fee previously, you do NOT need to send a copy of your SSI/SSDI letter or DD214 with your extension form.
- After each three-year cycle, you will be required to submit a new application along with a physician certification, a fingerprint background check, a new photo and other documentation to extend your registry identification card.
- We must receive your request to extend your card at least 10 days before it expires, or you will need to complete a new application, including obtaining a physician certification and a fingerprint background check.
- \$100 One-Year Extended Registry Card
- \$200 Two-Year Extended Registry Card
- \$50 One-Year Reduced Extended Registry Card
- \$100 Two-Year Reduced Extended Registry Card

Visit **[Bit.ly/RenewRegistryCard](https://bit.ly/RenewRegistryCard)** for more information on renewing your card.



ILLINOIS MEDICAL CANNABIS COMMUNITY



Facebook.com/groups/
IllinoisMCC Use the
"Search This Group"

box to look for older posts.
Quite often a question has
been asked already and we are
more than happy to help you
find the answers.

Current Qualifying Conditions

- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- Agitation of Alzheimer's Disease
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Arnold-Chiari Malformation and Syringomelia
- Cachexia / Wasting Syndrome
- Cancer
- Causalgia
- Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy
- Crohn's Disease
- Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type I & Type II (CRPS)
- Dystonia
- Fibromyalgia (severe)
- Fibrous Dysplasia
- Glaucoma
- Hepatitis C
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Hydrocephalus
- Interstitial Cystitis
- Lupus
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Myasthenia Gravis
- Myoclonus
- Nail-patella Syndrome
- Neurofibromatosis
- Parkinson's Disease
- Post-concussion Syndrome
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Residual Limb Pain
- Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
- Seizures, including those characteristics of epilepsy
- Sjogren's Syndrome
- Spinal cord disease, including, but not limited to, arachnoiditis, Tarlov Cysts, Hydromyelia, Syringomyelia
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA)
- Terminal Illness
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Pending Qualifying Conditions

- Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD)
- Chronic Post Operative Pain
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)
- Intractable Pain
- Autism
- Migraines
- Osteoarthritis



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Guide to *change dispensary designation*

***Disclaimer: This is intended to assist, not a replacement for medical or legal advice.**

1 Go to the link below

[Bit.ly/Dispensary-Selection-Form](https://bit.ly/Dispensary-Selection-Form)

2 What you need

- Your Patient ID number or your QP number (This can be found on your ID card)
- The name, address, and dispensary # for the new dispensary
- Call dispensary to confirm change prior to visiting, typically 24-48 hours

3 Illinois dispensary list

An updated list of dispensaries in Illinois and their corresponding numbers can be found at [Bit.ly/IllinoisDispensaries](https://bit.ly/IllinoisDispensaries)

4 Fill out dispensary change form

- You can edit the PDF file from step 1, then save it and email it as an attachment or you can simply copy and paste the information and email it to DPH.ChangeDispensary@Illinois.gov
- You can also print out the PDF, fill it out by hand and fax it to 217-782-1321 or mail it to:

**Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Medical Cannabis
535 W. Jefferson Street; MC-002
Springfield, IL 82781-0001**