



Connecticut's Legalized Recreational Marijuana (Cannabis) Law

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Recreational marijuana became legal in Connecticut on July 1, 2021, which makes the use and possession of small amounts of recreational marijuana legal for adults. There are still many facets of the law that will need to be studied and state and local municipalities will have to determine how to define, regulate and implement the law in their communities in the next few years.

What the law currently allows as of July 1, and October 1, 2021:

- Adults 21 and older will be able to possess up to 1.5 ounces on their person and have 5 ounces in a locked container in the home or locked trunk or glove compartment in the person's vehicle.
- Individuals will be able to grow marijuana, but it will be limited this year to those with medical marijuana cards, ages 18 and older, who will be allowed to grow up to six plants beginning October 1, 2021. Plants must be grown indoors.

What the law will implement starting January 1, 2022 or later:

- Adult's age 21 and older will be permitted to grow up to six marijuana plants beginning July 2, 2023. Plants must be grown indoors.
- Prior sentences or charges for marijuana possession erased – Starting on July 1, 2022, simple possession charges of 4 ounces or less before Jan 1, 2000 or from Oct. 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021, individuals can petition the court to have the criminal records erased. Individuals with these same crime charges, between Jan. 1, 2000 to Sept. 30, 2015 will have those charges automatically erased starting on January 1, 2023.
- Purchasing legal marijuana will not be available in retail stores until mid-2022 or later, as the state will have to set up a licensing process for retailers and those large-scale growers.

The new bill prohibits smoking of marijuana in state parks, workplaces, hotels and within 25 feet of an entrance. Communities with a population of 50,000 or more, will have to set up one public place for individuals to be able smoke, but municipalities can ban retail sales through zoning and regulate public use, just like they can do currently with the smoking of tobacco.

Link here to Governor Lamont's Press Release with additional information and a link to the **Senate Bill 1201**:
<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/06-2021/Governor-Lamont-Signs-Bill-Legalizing-and-Safely-Regulating-Adult-Use-Cannabis>

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