

# Frequently Asked Questions for Patients, Caregivers and Authorized Purchasers



## 1. How long does it take for a patient, caregiver, or authorized purchaser to be licensed?

On average, it takes five to 10 days.

## 2. Can I apply online?

Yes, as of March 1, 2023, patients can apply on the new online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)).

The first time you use the online portal, you will need to create an account by completing the online application.

After you complete the application, you will need to upload all of the required documents, including:

- *Practitioner Written Certification Form*
- Proof of Rhode Island residency
- Minor patient form (if applicable)
- *Practitioner Written Certification Form for Use with Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis* (if applicable)

## 3. How much is the application fee?

As of December 1, 2022, there is no application fee. There is a \$10 fee if you need to change any information on your registration card, and there is a \$10 fee to replace a lost or stolen card.

## 4. How do I pay for any of the fees?

You can pay by debit or credit card in your account in the online portal. ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov))

## 5. Do I have to reapply if my license expires?

No. You can log into your online account ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)) to complete the Medical Marijuana Patient Renewal process. Upload all required documents:

- *Practitioner Written Certification Form*
- Proof of residency (only if address has changed)
- Minor patient form (if applicable)
- *Practitioner Written Certification Form for Use with Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis* (if applicable)

Once your renewal application is complete and you have been approved, your registration will be mailed to you.

## 6. What should I do if I am renewing my license and have a new doctor since the last time I renewed my registration card?

To update or change your doctor's name, print a blank Practitioner Written Certification Form for your new doctor to complete and sign.

You can download the form at <https://health.ri.gov/forms/certification/practitioner-written-certification.pdf>

The form must be signed by a Rhode Island licensed MD, DO, PA, or APRN or an MD or DO who is licensed in either Connecticut or Massachusetts. Their signature indicates they believe you could benefit from the program based on your medical conditions.



**7. Can I renew my license online?**

Yes, you can log into your account on the online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)) and complete the Medical Marijuana Patient Renewal process online and upload the required documents. If you are a caregiver or authorized purchaser, the patient must provide your name and email via their online account before you can renew your registration. Once the patient provides your name and email, you will receive an email that contains a link that will allow you to renew your registration card.

**8. I renewed my registration care late. Will it be active for one year from the date I renewed it?**

Yes, your registration card will be active for one year from the date of renewal.

**9. I lost my medical marijuana registration card. How do I replace it?**

To replace a lost or stolen registration card, log into your account on the online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)). After you log into your account, you will need to upload a current Rhode Island driver's license or Rhode Island state ID and pay a \$10 replacement fee. You can pay by debit card or credit card. Your replacement card will be mailed to you.

**10. How do I change my address?**

You can change your address by logging into your account on the online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)). After you log into your account, complete the *Change of Information Form*, upload proof of Rhode Island residency, and pay a \$10 fee by debit card or credit card. You can show proof of residency by uploading a copy of a Rhode Island driver's license, a Rhode Island State ID, any correspondence from another State agency, current vehicle registration, current car insurance bill, or voter's registration.

**11. How do I add a caregiver or authorized purchaser?**

To add a caregiver or authorized purchaser, the patient must log into their account on the online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)). After the patient logs into their account, they must enter the name and email address of each person they want to add as a caregiver or as an authorized purchaser. The new caregiver or authorized purchaser will get an email that includes a link to the online portal. The new caregiver or authorized purchaser must create their own account, complete a *Primary Caregiver Application* or an *Authorized Purchaser Application*, and upload a photo of themselves. Caregivers must also upload proof of Rhode Island residency. Once the caregiver or authorized purchaser is approved, a license will be mailed to them.

**12. How do I change my current caregiver or purchaser?**

If you want to change your existing caregiver or authorized purchaser, log into your account on the online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)). After you log into your account, complete a *Change of Information Form* to remove your current caregiver or authorized purchaser and pay a \$10 fee with a debit card or credit card. While you are still logged into your account, enter the name and email address of your new caregiver or authorized purchaser. The new caregiver or authorized purchaser will get an email that includes a link to the online portal. The new caregiver or authorized purchased must create their own account, complete a *Primary Caregiver Application* or an *Authorized Purchaser Application*, and upload a photo of themselves. Caregivers must also upload proof of Rhode Island residency. Once the caregiver or authorized purchased is approved, a license will be mailed to them.



**13. What is the difference between a caregiver and an authorized purchaser?**

A caregiver can grow their own marijuana or buy marijuana from a compassion center. A caregiver can have up to five patients. An authorized purchaser can only buy marijuana at a compassion center and may only have one patient.

**14. Where do I buy tags for marijuana plants?**

Physical plant tags that are hung on the plant are no longer required; however, growers must have a Plant Tag Certificate. As of December 1, 2022, there is no cost for a Plant Tag Certificate. Plant Tag Certificates are managed by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation. Visit the website of the Office of Cannabis Regulation at <https://dbr.ri.gov/office-cannabis-regulation>

**15. Can you refer me to a medical marijuana doctor?**

No. RIDOH does not give doctor referrals. To find a doctor in your area who is accepting new patients, use RIDOH’s online tool at <https://health.ri.gov/find/providers/>

**16. Where can I learn more about the Medical Marijuana Program?**

To learn more, go to [www.health.ri.gov/healthcare/medicalmarijuana](http://www.health.ri.gov/healthcare/medicalmarijuana)

