

Cannabis Delivery: Ensuring Patient Access and Eliminating the Illegal Market

Medical cannabis delivery service should be an essential component local cannabis policy reforms. Delivery services ensure safe and discreet patient access, neutralize illegal market activity, and advance patient and public safety.

PATIENT ACCESS: Travelling to a cannabis dispensary can be burdensome and even painful for patients with a chronic or severe illness. Ensuring safe and convenient access is particularly important in jurisdictions with populations of patients with conditions for which cannabis has a demonstrated and effective medical application, such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, epilepsy, diabetes and PTSD. Providing these patients with appropriate access to legal and tested medical cannabis will have profoundly positive effects on their health outcomes.

PATIENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Maintaining an arbitrary and limited number of legal cannabis retail storefronts leaves patients to navigate an inadequate treatment framework, and seek less safe medical cannabis access options through the illegal market. Illegal providers cannot be held accountable and are not bound by law or industry best practices. With effective regulation, technology platforms for delivery and seed-to-sale tracking can be utilized to offer delivery services without any loss in accountability or product traceability. Every transaction, product, and delivery can be tracked and accounted for to preserve public safety and public health.

REDUCING ILLEGAL ACTIVITY AND MANAGING POP-UP DISPENSARIES: One of the primary drivers of the illegal cannabis market is insufficient access to legal points of sale. In many jurisdictions, insufficient retail access has translated into hundreds of unlicensed “pop-up” medical cannabis dispensaries, which are unregulated and attract crime. Allowing for regulated delivery services will help provide a greater number of legal access points, reducing demand from illegal market operators and driving down illegal market crime.

Crowding out the illegal market must be a core priority for Los Angeles, as the City is home to the largest cannabis market in the world. As such, comprehensive efforts must be made to eliminate illegal market activity and maximizing the number of legal retail access points is a key component to this strategy.

Delivery Best Practices

Medical recommendations of patients requesting delivery must be confirmed and all orders must be directly delivered to the patient who placed the order.

All drivers should be tracked by GPS and all transactions should be accompanied by appropriate order forms, invoices, and manifests. Cannabis products should be delivered in discrete packaging and meet the testing and labeling requirements per State law.

Restrict deliveries to physical addresses. No deliveries to schools, parks, youth centers, etc.

All medical cannabis in the vehicle should be sealed and securely stored out of plain site.

Drivers should have a valid CA driver’s license and carry both personal and business vehicle insurance policies.

Vehicles should not be marked in any way that would suggest they contain medical cannabis.

Vehicles should meet all commercial vehicle requirements in accordance with State and Local law.

Vehicles should be in good working condition and regularly maintained and inspected.

There should be a maximum amount of medical cannabis allowed in each vehicle.