

How the Department will Implement the New Law

Kidane outlined four phases to implement the mandates of the Medical Marijuana Regulations and Safety Act by January of 2018. They include:

Hiring staff to draft regulations and hold stakeholder meetings. On February 4, 2016, Governor Brown appointed Lori Ajax to serve as Chief of the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation.

2. Developing and noticing regulations with a focus on stakeholder engagement and outreach through industry events.
3. Focusing on information technology implementation. Once regulations are drafted and publicly noticed, the Department will get a better understanding of the business requirements of an IT solution, and focus can shift to implementing a licensing system while ensuring continuity across the systems of partnering agencies.
4. Licensing and enforcement, including hiring and training enforcement staff and license application intake.

Although the implementation of the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act is a little less than two years away, DCA has already been receiving questions from consumers, businesses, and potential licensees. Below are some frequently asked questions and answers.

Consumers:

Q. How can I apply for jobs with the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation?

A. Search for job vacancies on the Ca IHR website at <https://jobs.ca.gov/>.

Q. Can I continue to use my current Medical Marijuana Identification Card to purchase medical marijuana?

A. Yes. There will be no change in the process for using or applying for a Medical Marijuana Identification Card.

Q. Can I only make purchases at dispensaries licensed by the State?

A. No. Currently you may continue to purchase medical marijuana from a locally authorized dispensary.

Businesses and Potential Licensees:

Q. What types of licenses will the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation issue?

A. The Bureau is authorized to issue licenses for distributors, dispensaries, and transporters.

Q. How can I apply for a license?

A. DCA is in the early stages of establishing the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation and is not issuing licenses at this time. DCA recommends interested parties continue to work with their city or county governments to procure the local licenses and permits required to establish a medical marijuana business.

Q. How will these new laws impact my existing business?

A. There should be no change in the way you do business. At this time the new law does not impact a local government's ability to establish its own marijuana regulations, and at this time DCA is placing no additional requirements on existing marijuana businesses.

Q. What is the timeline for the development of regulations?

A. DCA anticipates that regulations will be developed by January 1, 2018.

Q. How can I receive updates regarding regulation development?

A. Once DCA commences regulations, information will be posted on its website at www.dca.ca.gov in order to announce proposed regulatory actions and solicit stakeholder input.