

Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants:

Note: This information provided does not replace legal advice given by an attorney. If you have any concerns about personal liability or legal risks, consult an attorney.

Q. Are medical cannabis users and their primary caregivers required to enroll in the CA State Medical Cannabis User ID Card Program?

A. NO! Enrollment in the CA State Medical Cannabis User ID Card Program is completely *VOLUNTARY*. We are offering this program as a service to Santa Cruz County residents who wish to have the convenience of a credit-card sized photo ID card that indicates they qualify as a medical cannabis user or primary caregiver under Proposition 215.

Q. Can I still qualify as a medical cannabis user or a primary caregiver under Proposition 215 if I choose not to enroll in the Medical Cannabis ID Card Program?

A. YES! If you choose not to enroll in the Medical Cannabis ID Card Program you can still qualify as a medical cannabis user under Proposition 215 by having a recommendation for medical cannabis use from your physician, and you can qualify as a primary caregiver if you have been designated by a medical cannabis user and you have consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, or safety of that person. The medical cannabis ID card just offers a convenient way for you to show law enforcement or other officials that you qualify under Proposition 215, but it is not the only way to show law enforcement that you qualify.

Q. What information will the Medical Cannabis ID Card Program keep on file?

A. To give strong protection to physician and patient confidentiality, all the forms you submitted will be returned to you once your ID card application has been processed, and we will not keep any copies. If you are issued an ID Card, we will keep on file the number of your card, the date the ID card was issued, and the date the ID card will expire. Law enforcement officials will be able to access the State secured website to verify the card number, and expiration of the issued medical cannabis ID cards.

Q. How long will the Medical Cannabis ID Card be valid?

A. The card will be valid for one year for both the User and the Primary Caregiver.

Q. What do I need to do to get a new card if my card expires, or if it is lost or stolen?

A. Because we will not have your name, your contact information, or any copies of your physician's statement and other forms in our files, you will need to complete an entire new application and pay the application fee if your card expires, or is lost or stolen.

Q. What are the benefits of the Medical Cannabis ID User Card Program?

A. Many users of Medical Marijuana believe that a valid Medical Marijuana ID Card offers legal protection. However, the protections contained in Proposition 215 are limited. Users of Medical Marijuana and caregivers of persons who use Medical Marijuana should study the law thoroughly to make certain that their activities are covered. It should be noted that the federal government does not recognize the California law about Medical Marijuana use. If there are any questions about legal protections provided by Proposition 215, an attorney should be consulted.

Q. Is the Medical Marijuana ID Card valid outside of Santa Cruz County?

A. Obtaining a CA State Medical Marijuana User ID card means a Licensed California Doctor filled out a Physicians statement on your behalf. It is up to each law enforcement agency in each different jurisdiction whether they will accept the CA State Medical Marijuana User Card. Users of Medical Marijuana and caregivers of persons who use Medical Marijuana should study the law thoroughly to make certain that their activities are covered.