Arkansas Medical Marijuana Laws

Amendment 98 · Limits, Conditions & What Is Legal in 2026

Arkansas is a **medical-only** state. Recreational cannabis is illegal. The program sits in Amendment 98 of the Arkansas Constitution (the Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016) and is administered by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

A qualifying patient with a valid **Arkansas Medical Marijuana Registry Identification Card** may buy usable marijuana from a licensed dispensary. Without that card, possession is still a crime.

Quick reference

Legal status	Medical only. Recreational use remains illegal (Issue 4 failed in 2022).
Purchase / possession	2.5 oz usable marijuana per rolling 14-day period, statewide across all dispensaries.
Home grow	Prohibited for patients and caregivers.
State card fee	$50 non-refundable (patient, caregiver, or visiting patient).
Card term	Up to 1 year for residents. Visiting-patient cards last 90 days.
Processing	Up to 14 days. ADH does not issue temporary cards.
Military / Guard	Active U.S. military and Arkansas National Guard members cannot hold a card (2017 law).
Official portal	mmj.adh.arkansas.gov

The 2.5-ounce rolling limit — with an example

Qualified registered patients may purchase up to **2.5 ounces from a dispensary in a 14-day period**. ADH is explicit: each purchase counts against the balance for 14 days from that purchase date. The balance does **not** reset every two weeks on a fixed calendar. The cap is combined across every licensed store.

> *Example: You buy 1.5 oz on Monday. You have 1.0 oz remaining for the next 13 days. If you try to buy another 1.5 oz on Friday, the dispensary must refuse the sale because 3.0 oz would exceed the rolling cap.*

The 18 qualifying conditions (Amendment 98 § 2(13))

You need a documented diagnosis from a licensed Arkansas physician (MD or DO) and a written certification. Having a listed illness does not automatically make you a qualified patient until that certification is filed with ADH.

Twelve named diagnoses

Cancer · Glaucoma · HIV/AIDS · Hepatitis C · Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) · Tourette’s syndrome · Crohn’s disease · Ulcerative colitis · Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) · Severe arthritis · Fibromyalgia · Alzheimer’s disease — or the treatment of these conditions.

Six symptom pathways

A chronic or debilitating disease or its treatment that produces one or more of: cachexia or wasting syndrome; peripheral neuropathy; **intractable pain** (pain that has not responded to ordinary medications, treatment, or surgical

measures for more than six months); severe nausea; seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy; severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis.

> *Example: Generalized anxiety, insomnia, migraines, and depression by themselves are **not** on the list. Intractable pain qualifies only when ordinary treatment has failed for at least six months and that history is documented.*

Cards, fees, caregivers, visiting patients

Apply with ADH after you have a current physician written certification (issued within 30 days of the application), a photocopy of the front of your Arkansas driver's license or state ID, and the $50 fee. Renewals need a **new** certification — the old one cannot be reused. Renew as early as 60 days before expiration. When a card expires, legal protection expires with it.

Minors cannot buy from a dispensary. A parent or guardian registers as a designated caregiver. Caregivers are generally 21 or older, pay $50 per patient they serve, and complete a criminal background check ($37 in the ADH fee schedule) unless they are a parent applying for their own minor child. Caregivers may possess up to 2.5 oz on the patient's behalf and **may not consume** medicine bought for the patient.

Out-of-state cards are not honored at the counter. Visitors apply for a 90-day visiting patient card ($50). The condition approved in the home state must also be an Arkansas qualifying condition. Processing is up to 14 days.

What the law does not allow

- **No home cultivation.** Amendment 98 bars patients from growing. Grow-related paraphernalia with intent to cultivate can be a felony.
- **No public use.** Banned in a motor vehicle, on preschool/K–12 grounds, in a correctional facility, on a school bus, in a residence used for licensed childcare or similar social-service care, and in any public place where you could reasonably be observed.
- **No impaired driving.** A registry card is not a defense to DWI / operating a vehicle, aircraft, or motorboat under the influence.
- **No military / Guard cards.** 2017 legislation bars members of the U.S. military and the Arkansas National Guard from patient or caregiver cards.
- **Workplace is limited.** Employers may not fire you solely for card status, but they may still ban use or impairment on the job — especially in safety-sensitive roles.

How Ozark Medical Care fits

Ozark Medical Care in Mountain View provides physician written certifications for qualifying Arkansas patients. First-time evaluations are in person. After certification, you apply yourself on the ADH portal. We do not issue the state card and we do not sell cannabis.

Book an evaluation: ozarkmedicalcare.com/arkansas-medical-marijuana-doctors/

(870) 424-2273 · Mon–Fri 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. · Mountain View, Arkansas

Sources: Ark. Const. Amend. 98; Arkansas Department of Health Medical Marijuana FAQs and fee schedule; ADH registry portal. Laws and fees change. This handout is educational only and is not legal or medical advice.