

Article 222 Cannabis

Section 222.00 Cannabis; definitions

1. "Cannabis" means all parts of the plant of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin. It does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination. It does not include hemp, cannabinoid hemp or hemp extract as defined in section three of the cannabis law or drug products approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

2. "Concentrated cannabis" means:

(a) the separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from a plant of the genus Cannabis; or

(b) a material, preparation, mixture, compound or other substance which contains more than three percent by weight of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, or its isomer, delta-8 dibenzopyran numbering system, or delta-1 tetrahydrocannabinol or its isomer, delta 1 (6) monoterpene numbering system.

3. For the purposes of this article, "sell" shall mean to sell, exchange or dispose of for compensation. "Sell" shall not include the transfer of cannabis or concentrated cannabis between persons twenty-one years of age or older without compensation in the quantities authorized in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 222.05 of this article.

4. For the purposes of this article, "smoking" shall have the same meaning as that term is defined in section three of the cannabis law.

Section 222.05 Personal use of cannabis

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary:

1. The following acts are lawful for persons twenty-one years of age or older: (a) possessing, displaying, purchasing, obtaining, or transporting up to three ounces of cannabis and up to twenty-four grams of concentrated cannabis;

(b) transferring, without compensation, to a person twenty-one years of age or older, up to three ounces of cannabis and up to twenty-four grams of concentrated cannabis;

(c) using, smoking, ingesting, or consuming cannabis or concentrated cannabis unless otherwise prohibited by state law;

(d) possessing, using, displaying, purchasing, obtaining, manufacturing, transporting or giving to any person twenty-one years of age or older cannabis paraphernalia or concentrated cannabis paraphernalia;

(e) planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, processing or possessing cultivated cannabis in accordance with section 222.15 of this article; and

(f) assisting another person who is twenty-one years of age or older, or allowing property to be used, in any of the acts described in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this subdivision.

2. Cannabis, concentrated cannabis, cannabis paraphernalia or concentrated cannabis paraphernalia involved in any way with conduct deemed lawful by this section are not contraband nor subject to seizure or forfeiture of assets under article four hundred eighty of this chapter, section thirteen hundred eleven of the civil practice law and rules, or other applicable law, and no conduct deemed lawful by this section shall constitute the basis for approach, search, seizure, arrest or detention.

3. Except as provided in subdivision four of this section, in any criminal proceeding including proceedings pursuant to section 710.20 of the criminal procedure law, no finding or determination of reasonable cause to believe a crime has been committed shall be based solely on evidence of the following facts and circumstances, either individually or in combination with each other:

(a) the odor of cannabis;

(b) the odor of burnt cannabis;

(c) the possession of or the suspicion of possession of cannabis or concentrated cannabis in the amounts authorized in this article;

(d) the possession of multiple containers of cannabis without evidence of concentrated cannabis in the amounts authorized in this article;

(e) the presence of cash or currency in proximity to cannabis or concentrated cannabis; or

(f) the planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, processing or possessing cultivated cannabis in accordance with section 222.15 of this article.

4. Paragraph (b) of subdivision three of this section shall not apply when a law enforcement officer is investigating whether a person is operating a motor vehicle, vessel or snowmobile while impaired by drugs or the combined influence of drugs or of alcohol and any drug or drugs in violation of subdivision four or subdivision four-a of section eleven hundred ninety-two of the vehicle and traffic law, or paragraph (e) of subdivision two of section forty-nine-a of the navigation law, or paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section 25.24 of the parks, recreation and historic preservation law. During such investigations, the odor of burnt cannabis shall not provide probable cause to search any area of a vehicle that is not readily accessible to the driver and reasonably likely to contain evidence relevant to the driver's condition.

Section 222.10 Restrictions on cannabis use

Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, no person shall:

1. smoke or vape cannabis in a location where smoking or vaping cannabis is prohibited pursuant to article thirteen-E of the public health law; or
2. smoke, vape or ingest cannabis or concentrated cannabis in or upon the grounds of a school, as defined in subdivision ten of section eleven hundred twenty-five of the education law or in or on a school bus, as defined in section one hundred forty-two of the vehicle and traffic law; provided, however, provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to acts that are in compliance with article three of the cannabis law.

Notwithstanding any other section of law, violations of restrictions on cannabis use are subject to a civil penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars or an amount of community service not exceeding twenty hours.

Section 222.15 Personal cultivation and home possession of cannabis

1. Except as provided for in section forty-one of the cannabis law, and unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, no person may:

- (a) plant, cultivate, harvest, dry, process or possess more than three mature cannabis plants and three immature cannabis plants at any one time; or
- (b) plant, cultivate, harvest, dry, process or possess, within his or her private residence, or on the grounds of his or her private residence, more than three mature cannabis plants and three immature cannabis plants at any one time; or
- (c) being under the age of twenty-one, plant, cultivate, harvest, dry, process or possess cannabis plants.

2. No more than six mature and six immature cannabis plants may be cultivated, harvested, dried, or possessed within any private residence, or on the grounds of a person's private residence.

3. The personal cultivation of cannabis shall only be permitted within, or on the grounds of, a person's private residence.

4. Any mature or immature cannabis plant described in paragraph (a) or (b) of subdivision one of this section, and any cannabis produced by any such cannabis plant or plants cultivated, harvested, dried, processed or possessed pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of subdivision one of this section shall, unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, be stored within such person's private residence or on the grounds of such person's private residence. Such person shall take reasonable steps designed to ensure that such cultivated cannabis is in a secured place and not accessible to any person under the age of twenty-one.

5. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person may lawfully possess up to five pounds of cannabis in their private residence or on the grounds of such person's private residence. Such person shall take reasonable steps designed to ensure that such cannabis is in a secured place not accessible to any person under the age of twenty-one.

6. A county, town, city or village may enact and enforce regulations to reasonably regulate the actions and conduct set forth in subdivision one of this section; provided that:

(a) a violation of any such a regulation, as approved by such county, town, city or village enacting the regulation, may constitute no more than an infraction and may be punishable by no more than a discretionary civil penalty of two hundred dollars or less; and

(b) no county, town, city or village may enact or enforce any such regulation or regulations that may completely or essentially prohibit a person from engaging in the action or conduct authorized by subdivision one of this section.

A violation of this section, other than paragraph (a) of subdivision six of this section, may be subject to a civil penalty of up to one hundred twenty-five dollars per violation.

7. The office of cannabis management shall issue regulations for the home cultivation of cannabis. The office of cannabis management shall enact, and may enforce, regulations to regulate the actions and conduct set forth in this section including requirements for, or restrictions and prohibitions on, the use of any compressed flammable gas solvents such as propane, butane, or other hexane gases for cannabis processing; or other forms of home cultivation, manufacturing, or cannabinoid production and processing, which the office determines poses a danger to public safety; and to ensure the home cultivation of cannabis is for personal use by an adult over the age of twenty-one in possession of cannabis plants, and not utilized for unlicensed commercial or illicit activity, provided any regulations issued by the

office shall not completely or essentially prohibit a person from engaging in the action or conduct authorized by this section.

8. The office of cannabis management may issue guidance or advisories for the education and promotion of safe practices for activities and conduct authorized in subdivision one of this section.

9. Subdivisions one through five of this section shall not take effect until such a time as the office of cannabis management has issued regulations governing the home cultivation of cannabis. The office shall issue rules and regulations governing the home cultivation of cannabis by certified patients as defined in section three of the cannabis law, no later than six months after the effective date of this article and shall issue rules and regulations governing the home cultivation of cannabis for cannabis consumers as defined by section three of the cannabis law no later than eighteen months following the first authorized retail sale of adult-use cannabis products to a cannabis consumer.

Section 222.20 Licensing of cannabis production and distribution; defense

In any prosecution for an offense involving cannabis under this article or an authorized local law, it is a defense that the defendant was engaged in such activity in compliance with the cannabis law.

Section 222.25 Unlawful possession of cannabis

A person is guilty of unlawful possession of cannabis when he or she knowingly and unlawfully possesses cannabis and such cannabis weighs more than three ounces or concentrated cannabis and such concentrated cannabis weighs more than twenty-four grams.

Unlawful possession of cannabis is a violation punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred twenty-five dollars.

Section 222.30 Criminal possession of cannabis in the third degree

A person is guilty of criminal possession of cannabis in the third degree when he or she knowingly and unlawfully possesses:

1. cannabis and such cannabis weighs more than sixteen ounces; or
2. concentrated cannabis and such concentrated cannabis weighs more than five ounces.

Criminal possession of cannabis in the third degree is a class A misdemeanor.

Section 222.35 Criminal possession of cannabis in the second degree

A person is guilty of criminal possession of cannabis in the second degree when he or she knowingly and unlawfully possesses:

1. cannabis and such cannabis weighs more than five pounds; or
2. concentrated cannabis and such concentrated cannabis weighs more than two pounds.

Criminal possession of cannabis in the second degree is a class E felony.

Section 222.40 Criminal possession of cannabis in the first degree

A person is guilty of criminal possession of cannabis in the first degree when he or she knowingly and unlawfully possesses:

1. cannabis and such cannabis weighs more than ten pounds; or
2. concentrated cannabis and such concentrated cannabis weighs more than four pounds.

Criminal possession of cannabis in the first degree is a class D felony.

Section 222.45 Unlawful sale of cannabis

A person is guilty of unlawful sale of cannabis when he or she knowingly and unlawfully sells cannabis or concentrated cannabis.

Unlawful sale of cannabis is a violation punishable by a fine of not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

Section 222.50 Criminal sale of cannabis in the third degree

A person is guilty of criminal sale of cannabis in the third degree when:

1. he or she knowingly and unlawfully sells more than three ounces of cannabis or more than twenty-four grams of concentrated cannabis; or

2. being twenty-one years of age or older, he or she knowingly and unlawfully sells or gives, or causes to be given or sold, cannabis or concentrated cannabis to a person less than twenty-one years of age; except that in any prosecution under this subdivision, it is a defense that the defendant was less than three years older than the person under the age of twenty-one at the time of the offense. This subdivision shall not apply to designated caregivers, practitioners, employees of a registered organization or employees of a designated caregiver facility acting in compliance with article three of the cannabis law.

Criminal sale of cannabis in the third degree is a class A misdemeanor.

Section 222.55 Criminal sale of cannabis in the second degree

A person is guilty of criminal sale of cannabis in the second degree when:

1. he or she knowingly and unlawfully sells more than sixteen ounces of cannabis or more than five ounces of concentrated cannabis; or

2. being twenty-one years of age or older, he or she knowingly and unlawfully sells or gives, or causes to be given or sold, more than three ounces of cannabis or more than twenty-four grams of concentrated cannabis to a person less than eighteen years of age. This subdivision shall not apply to designated caregivers, practitioners, employees of a registered organization or employees of a designated caregiver facility acting in compliance with article three of the cannabis law.

Criminal sale of cannabis in the second degree is a class E felony.

Section 222.60 Criminal sale of cannabis in the first degree

A person is guilty of criminal sale of cannabis in the first degree when he or she knowingly and unlawfully sells more than five pounds of cannabis or more than two pounds of concentrated cannabis.

Criminal sale of cannabis in the first degree is a class D felony.

Section 222.65 Aggravated criminal sale of cannabis

A person is guilty of aggravated criminal sale of cannabis when he or she knowingly and unlawfully sells cannabis or concentrated cannabis weighing one hundred pounds or more.

Aggravated criminal sale of cannabis is a class C felony.

