

# Colorado Use of Marijuana Fact Sheet

## **What is Colorado's Marijuana Law?**

In November 2012, Colorado voters approved Amendment 64. According to the law, adults 21 and older can possess up to one ounce of marijuana and grow up to six plants privately. Out-of-state residents or visitors are limited to a quarter of an ounce.

## **Where can I buy marijuana?**

The purchase or sale of marijuana continues to be illegal except if done by a state and locally licensed retail marijuana store. Eagle County has limited the number of such stores to eight which are located throughout the various commercial districts within unincorporated Eagle County.

## **Where can I consume marijuana legally?**

Marijuana is intended for private, personal use in Colorado. Marijuana consumption may not occur openly or publicly. Accordingly, marijuana may not be consumed in public ways, streets, sidewalks, alleys, trails, golf courses, public buildings, parks, open spaces, parking lots, amusement/sporting/music venues, and places of business usually open to the general public.

Consumption of marijuana may only occur on private property unless a property owner prohibits it. Eagle County has banned the possession and use of marijuana in all of its facilities including the county building, courthouse, jail, and airport. The operation of a marijuana social club or lounge is currently prohibited in unincorporated Eagle County.

Additionally, Colorado's Clean Indoor Air Act precludes smoking of tobacco or marijuana in restaurants, bars and clubs.

## **May I consume marijuana at the ski resorts located in Eagle County?**

No. Marijuana continues to be illegal under federal law. Consequently, consumption of marijuana on U.S. Forest Service land, which encompasses the vast majority of our ski resorts, is illegal under federal law. In addition, Vail Resorts does not permit the consumption of marijuana in or on any of its lifts, facilities or premises under its control. Using ski facilities under the influence of drugs or alcohol is against the law and a violation of the Colorado Ski Safety Act. Those found in violation risk prosecution and the loss of their skiing and snowboarding privileges.

## **May I take marijuana home with me if flying out of the Eagle County Regional Airport?**

No. Eagle County has banned the use and possession in the secured areas of the Airport. Passengers will not be allowed to board a plane while in possession of any marijuana product. It is illegal to take marijuana across state lines.

### **What should I do if I am staying in a hotel and smell marijuana from an adjoining room?**

Smoking or otherwise consuming marijuana may be prohibited by the hotel. However, such use is not necessarily a criminal activity. Please contact the hotel directly with any complaints you may have regarding use on the private premises.

### **What should I do if I rent or own a home and smell marijuana from an adjoining property?**

The Eagle County Sheriff's Office or the Eagle County Code Enforcement Department may investigate such complaints for compliance with legal possession limits, zoning and building code regulations, and other areas of state law. Absent a violation of the above, you will be required to bring a civil action on your own behalf for any relief relating to offensive odors.

### **What should I do if my neighbor is growing marijuana on his property?**

According to state law, adults over the age of 21 years old may grow up to six plants. Eagle County has limited growing in residential zone districts to that allowed by three adults in any single residence. The Eagle County Sheriff's Office or the Eagle County Code Enforcement Department may investigate such complaints for compliance with legal possession limits, zoning and building code regulations, and other areas of state law. However, the growing of marijuana is not necessarily a criminal activity.

### **What should I do if I observe minors using marijuana?**

It remains illegal to possess or consume marijuana if you are under the age of 21 years old. The Eagle County Sheriff's Office is committed to aggressively pursuing those who criminally divert marijuana products to minors and encourages those observing such conduct to contact law enforcement.

### **What should I do if I observe someone using marijuana in a vehicle?**

The Eagle County Sheriff's Office is committed keeping impaired drivers off of our streets. Such conduct should be reported to law enforcement. Driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal. Anyone with test results showing five nonograms or more of THC per milliliter of whole blood while driving can be arrested for DUI.

It is also illegal to consume marijuana while driving. Additionally, Colorado's preclusion against open alcohol containers applies equally to marijuana. In private vehicles, marijuana must be kept in a sealed container that is not readily accessible to the driver or passengers.

It is illegal to take marijuana across state lines in a vehicle.

Appoint a designated driver or call a taxi if you feel you may be under the influence.

### **How will Colorado's marijuana law impact my vacation experience in Eagle County?**

Eagle County is an outdoor mecca for family-friendly activities and will continue to be so. The use of marijuana in Colorado is regulated and public use is prohibited. Accordingly, guests should expect the same premier vacation experience they've come to expect. We ask those who choose to exercise their

rights to use marijuana to do so discreetly and respectfully of those individuals who do not wish to be exposed to marijuana use.

**What are the consequences if you violate marijuana laws?**

Consequences include anything from a fine to jail or a prison sentence depending on the violation. The Eagle County Sheriff's Office encourages users to know the laws and do so responsibly, safely and prudently.

**What are the health effects of using marijuana?**

For information about the health impacts of marijuana use, please visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse resource page on this topic at: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.