Drug Enforcement Administration Registration for Medical Cannabis Businesses

November 4, 2026

Recently, the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) learned of several communications issued to state licensed medical cannabis businesses in Maryland and other jurisdictions seeking Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration. The communications include medical cannabis dispensary registrations, show cause orders, and Timely Applicants Informational Letters. At this time, medical cannabis registrations appear to be issued to medical cannabis dispensaries across several medical-only states. The show cause orders being issued appear to be a DEA mechanism for initiating an administrative proceeding to revoke or suspend an existing DEA registration or deny an application for a DEA registration. The grounds for denial of applications currently subject to show cause orders appear to include dual-purpose licensing, patient self-certification, and the allowed use of artificially derived cannabinoids within regulated markets.

In addition to the communications described above, the DEA has publicly posted a List of Medical Marijuana Timely Applicants on its website. Please note the links have been periodically crashing; if you experience an error please be patient. If your business is included on this list, please refer to the DEA's Timely Applicants Informational Letter for additional information.

As a reminder, Maryland law remains fully operative and unchanged, and state licensing and enforcement continues as enacted by Maryland General Assembly. Businesses that choose not to register with the DEA will not face any action by the MCA.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, from 4 to 5 p.m., the MCA will host a virtual town hall to discuss the recent shifts in federal rescheduling of medical cannabis. Please click here to register. If you have questions related to rescheduling, please send them to rescheduling.mca@maryland.gov in advance of the town hall.