AZ Medical Marijuana Act (A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 28.1)

In November 2010, voters passed the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act. The Act allows for qualifying patients to apply for registry identification cards to obtain medical marijuana for certain debilitating medical conditions. Qualifying patients may also choose to designate a caregiver to assist them with the use of medical marijuana.

Qualifying patients may obtain medical marijuana from their caregiver, other qualifying patients, or a nonprofit medical marijuana dispensary. With permission from ADHS, qualifying patients or their caregivers may cultivate marijuana if the patient lives more than 25 miles from a dispensary.

In order to operate, a dispensary must have a Dispensary Registration Certificate and Approval to Operate from ADHS. A total of 98 Dispensary Registration Certificates have been allocated and are in the process of being issued throughout Arizona.

Dispensaries have roughly 1 year from August 7, 2012 to obtain Approval to Operate from ADHS.

Who is eligible for a medical marijuana registry ID card?

Qualifying Patients:
Must have one of the following qualifying conditions:
- Cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis C, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Crohn’s Disease, Agitation of Alzheimer’s Disease or
- A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition (or treatment for) that causes: Cachexia or wasting syndrome
  Severe and chronic pain
  Severe nausea
  Seizures
  Severe or persistent muscle spasms

Must receive a written certification from an AZ licensed physician (MD, DO, NMD/ND, MD(H)/DO(H))
May obtain up to 2.5 ounces in a 14-day period
May possess up to 2.5 ounces of usable marijuana or 12 plants

Designated Caregivers:
Must be at least 21 years of age
Must not have been convicted of an excluded felony offense
May provide care for up to 5 patients
Must have a separate registry ID card for each patient
May grow up to 12 plants for each patient if the patient lives more than 25 miles from a licensed dispensary

Where can a qualifying patient obtain medical marijuana?

Qualifying patients may obtain medical marijuana from their designated caregiver, another qualifying patient, a nonprofit medical marijuana dispensary, or may receive authorization to cultivate if their residence address is located more than 25 miles from a dispensary.