



KENTUCKY ALTERNATIVE CARE  
*wellness without compromise*

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: A GUIDE TO TRAFFIC STOPS & CANNABIS IN KENTUCKY

*Brought to you by Kentucky Alternative Care*

### **WHY THIS MATTERS**

If you're a cannabis patient or consumer in Kentucky, it's important to understand your rights and responsibilities during a traffic stop. The laws can be confusing, but this guide is here to help keep you safe, informed, and prepared.

Keep this guide in your car or wallet. It could make all the difference.

### **STEP 1: WHEN YOU GET PULLED OVER**

#### **Stay Calm & Composed:**

- Slow down, turn on your hazard lights, and pull over safely.
- Keep your hands visible on the steering wheel.
- Don't make sudden movements. Wait for instructions.

#### **You Must Provide:**

- Driver's license
- Vehicle registration
- Proof of insurance

#### **You Do NOT Have to Provide:**

- Information about where you're going, where you've been, or what's in your car.
- Verbal consent for a search (more on that below).

#### **Say Politely:**

- *"Officer, I prefer not to answer questions."*
- *"I do not consent to any searches."*

### **STEP 2: VEHICLE SEARCHES & YOUR RIGHTS**

#### **Can they search your car?**

- If you **CONSENT**: Yes.
- If they **SMELL CANNABIS**: Yes. The odor of cannabis is considered probable cause in Kentucky.
- If you say **NO**: They may still search, but you have protected your legal rights by refusing.

**Always Say:** *"I do not consent to a search."*

**Important:** *Even if a search happens, your refusal can help your defense later in court.*

### STEP 3: IF YOU HAVE CANNABIS WITH YOU

#### Legal for Medical Patients ONLY.

If you are a registered medical cannabis patient in Kentucky:

#### You Can Carry:

- Up to 112 grams of raw cannabis (flower)
- 28 grams of concentrate
- 3,900 mg THC in edibles

#### You Must Have:

- A valid Kentucky medical cannabis card
- Cannabis in original packaging with proof of purchase
- Cannabis stored in a closed container, ideally in the trunk or locked glove box

#### Not Legal?

If you don't have a medical card, cannabis possession is still illegal under state law.

- In places like Louisville, minor possession may be deprioritized, but it's still a risk.
- Police can confiscate, cite, or arrest you depending on location and amount.

### NEVER DRIVE HIGH.

Even with a card, driving under the influence is illegal and dangerous. Officers may request a sobriety test.

### STEP 4: WHAT NOT TO DO

- Don't argue, escalate, or lie.
- Don't try to hide, throw, or eat cannabis.
- Don't admit to anything without a lawyer.

### STEP 5: AFTER THE STOP

#### Write Down:

- Time, date, and location of stop
- Officer's name and badge number
- What was said and done (as best as you remember)

#### If You Feel Your Rights Were Violated:

- File a complaint with the KY Office of Medical Cannabis: **833-727-2828**
- Contact legal support:
  - William M. Butler, Attorney (Louisville): **(502) 237-0871**
  - ACLU of Kentucky: **(502) 581-9746**

### QUICK REFERENCE SUMMARY

SITUATION	WHAT TO DO?
Officer asks questions	<i>"I prefer not to answer."</i>
Officer asks to search	<i>"I do not consent to a search."</i>
You have a medical card	<i>Present it, along with legal packaging &amp; storage</i>
No card & caught with weed	<i>Remain silent, don't admit ownership, call a lawyer</i>

### KEEP THIS IN YOUR GLOVE BOX

This material is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Always consult a licensed attorney regarding your individual situation.

Stay safe. Stay smart. Stay calm.  
For more cannabis education, visit: [kymedcan.ky.gov](http://kymedcan.ky.gov)



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