

## *Marijuana and Missouri*

Legalization of medical and recreational marijuana has become law in a few states, leading to increased struggles between state and federal legislation. This has implications for responsible gun owners. Simply stated, a responsible gun owner will not have any interaction with a controlled substance or anyone illegally possessing controlled substances.

In the State of Missouri, marijuana is not legal. There is no grey area. There is no rationalizing the law. Marijuana is not legal in the State of Missouri. Medical marijuana does not exist in Missouri. At some future point, the law may change, but as of today, Missouri does not recognize medical marijuana in the state, nor will Missouri recognize a medical marijuana card from another state. If you're entering Missouri from another state and you have a medical marijuana card, Missouri will not recognize that card.

If you have less than ten grams of marijuana in the State of Missouri, it is a Class D Misdemeanor, which means it is not an offense which can send you to jail. If you have between ten and 35 grams of marijuana, it is a Class A Misdemeanor, which means you could face up to a year in jail. If you have more than 35 grams of marijuana, it becomes a felony offense, which means prison. This is the law pertaining to marijuana and other illegal, controlled substances.

Now, looking at laws pertaining to firearms. If you have a firearm in your possession and you also have any amount of marijuana (or any illegally possessed controlled substance), it can result in a felony charge for unlawful use of a weapon, since this is an illegally possessed, controlled substance. If you possess an illegal controlled substance, in any amount, and you are also carrying a firearm, the mixture of those two constitutes a felony charge in Missouri. While laws may change with regards to marijuana in the future, it is important to follow the laws as they are currently written. You can be certain the police will follow the laws as they are currently written.



**RSMo 571.030. Unlawful use of weapons — exceptions — penalties.** — 1. A person commits the offense of unlawful use of weapons, except as otherwise provided by sections 571.101 to 571.121, if he or she knowingly:

(5) Has a firearm or projectile weapon readily capable of lethal use on his or her person, while he or she is intoxicated, and handles or otherwise uses such firearm or projectile weapon in either a negligent or unlawful manner or discharges such firearm or projectile weapon.

(11) Possesses a firearm while also knowingly in possession of a controlled substance

**Intoxicated defined**, substantially impaired mental or physical capacity resulting from introduction of any substance into the body.

This includes controlled substances/drugs. Alcohol is a drug, marijuana is a drug. Unlawful use of a weapon is a Class D Felony.

Very simply, you never want to be in possession of a controlled substance. Even though many people have been talking about legalizing marijuana in Missouri, it is still a controlled substance and possession of any controlled substance is illegal. Add firearms into the mix, you should get yourself fitted for an orange jump suit and look forward to being a member of a gated community at state expense!

Protect yourself and your family by signing up for a Concealed Carry or other Personal Protection class from *Advantage*. You'll learn more tips like these, how to protect yourself and essential protection techniques. You will learn how to use your tools to protect yourself and your loved ones. More importantly, you'll be taught how to hopefully never need to use these tools! Learn more about available classes online at [www.AdvantageFET.com](http://www.AdvantageFET.com).

