

# EXPLANATION OF COMMON TERMS

## EDUCATIONAL SERIES: MEDICAL MARIJUANA 101

Updated May 2021

While research is not conclusive about the benefits and risk of medical marijuana, it is helpful to understand what makes up marijuana and what compounds are believed to affect health. This information sheet is intended to provide an explanation of common terms that describe marijuana plants and some components of these plants.

### CANNABIS

Cannabis is the plant used to create hemp and marijuana products. There are three common cannabis plant species:



*Sativa*

Tall plant,  
narrow leaves



*Indica*

Bushy plant,  
broad leaves



*Ruderalis*

Short plant,  
varied leaves

### CANNABINOIDS

Marijuana contains at least 120 compounds called cannabinoids that cause euphoric feelings or psychoactive effects.

The two most common cannabinoids are cannabidiol (CBD) and delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

### TERPENES

Marijuana contains compounds called terpenes that produce a distinctive marijuana odor, as well as therapeutic smells like lavender and peppermint.

It is currently unknown if terpenes play a role in health effects.



### HEMP

Hemp plants are cannabis species.

Hemp products, however, contain a small amount of the chemical known as “THC” (less than 0.3% THC), which means hemp products are unlikely to have psychoactive effects. Hemp products can be cultivated and sold as of 2018 according to the Federal Agricultural Act.

### MARIJUANA

Marijuana is another word for the cannabis plant.

Marijuana products contain more THC (greater than 0.3% THC) than hemp, and are only legally available through Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) in Florida.

### CBD

CBD is a cannabinoid that causes blissful feelings and may reduce certain types of inflammation (swelling).

It is believed to cause a “calm” feeling.

### THC

THC is a cannabinoid that causes both blissful feelings and psychoactive effects.

It is believed to cause a “high” feeling.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2017. The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.  
Medical News Today. 2020. What to know about Terpenes. Accessed from <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com>  
Medical News Today. 2020. What's the difference between indica and sativa? Accessed from <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com>

# MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM IN FLORIDA: HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS

In 2016, Florida implemented the Compassionate Medical Use Act, also known as Amendment 2.

This allows patients with a qualifying condition to use medical marijuana after receiving certification from an authorized medical marijuana physician.

## Office for Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU)

Established by the Florida Department of Health, the Office for Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) is charged with writing and implementing the Department of Health's rules for medical marijuana; overseeing the statewide Medical Marijuana Use Registry; licensing Florida businesses to cultivate, process and dispense medical marijuana; and certifying marijuana testing laboratories.

## Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs)

Often called dispensaries, licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) are the only businesses in Florida authorized to dispense medical marijuana and low-THC cannabis to qualified patients and caregivers.

## Certifying Physician

A physician who is authorized to order low-THC cannabis, medical marijuana or cannabis delivery devices for qualifying patients.

A list of certifying physicians can be located at [knowthefactsmmj.com](http://knowthefactsmmj.com).

## Medical Marijuana Use Registry (MMUR)

The Medical Marijuana Use Registry (MMUR) is a secure, electronic, online database for the registration of qualified physicians and patients and their orders.

It is accessible by patients, qualified physicians, law enforcement, medical marijuana treatment center staff and Office of Medical Marijuana Use staff.

## Conditions

To be eligible for medical marijuana in Florida, you must have one of the following qualifying medical conditions or symptoms:

- Cancer
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Crohn's Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson's Disease
- Medical condition comparable to those listed
- Terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the physician certification
- Chronic nonmalignant pain caused by a qualifying medical condition or that originates from a qualifying medical condition and persists beyond the usual course of that qualifying medical condition

**To learn more, please visit the Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) at [knowthefactsmmj.com](http://knowthefactsmmj.com)**