



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NOTICE TO BUSINESSES THAT RETAIL MARIJUANA, HEMP, AND/OR SYNTHETIC CANNABIS PRODUCTS

October 2024

The State of California allows for the sale of cannabis and cannabis-derived products only in compliance with specific regulatory and licensing requirements. It has come to the attention of the San Diego County Sheriff's Office that your business may be selling products in violation of laws including but not limited to those established as part of California Assembly Bill 45 (2021) and the Governor's emergency regulations to ban THC-containing hemp products (2024).

California's cannabis industry is regulated to ensure businesses offer for sale only products that are regulated, tested, and safe. Consumer safety is a priority. In addition to cannabis regulations, industrial hemp is also regulated. Unlawful cannabis product sales or unlawful hemp product sales may be prosecuted under state and local law and may be subject to additional civil penalties.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office intends to take an education-first approach, so retailers are aware of the new regulations. Products labeled as "hemp-derived" can have significantly different actual contents compared to what's written on the package or listed on the provided certificate. Misabeled products are a public safety issue, and likely illegal. Retailers are encouraged to seek independent laboratory testing to ensure product contents are accurately listed on product labels. To potentially reduce business liability, it is strongly encouraged businesses verify the contents of products sold to the public.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office requests that your retail establishment(s) dispose of any unlawful cannabis or hemp products or surrender them to the San Diego County Sheriff's Office for disposal within the next 30 days. Enforcement action may be taken, as appropriate, after this notice. Any person who wishes to surrender any product believed to be unlawful may turn them in at any Sheriff's Patrol Station.

Under no circumstances may cannabis or cannabis-derived products be sold to minors under 18 years of age. Selling cannabis to a minor is a felony offense pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11361(b). Any business found to be selling any product containing an illegal substance to a minor will result in immediate enforcement action.

Sheriff Kelly A. Martinez
San Diego County Sheriff's Office

Please contact the San Diego County Sheriff's Office at marijuanaenforcement@sdsheriff.gov for further assistance or www.sdsheriff.gov/resources/THC to learn more.