

Signs of Impairment & Drug Abuse

Alabama

Medical cannabis is legal in Alabama, and we want to ensure we sell and dispense with a **focus on responsibility and compliance**.

Part of this focus will be to ensure we only sell cannabis to individuals who may legally purchase with us. Be on the lookout for people entering your facility that you perceive may be under the influence of impairing substances. If you identify potential signs of impairment, endeavor to refuse entry. If necessary, request assistance from a team leader or manager. Oftentimes, when individuals are intoxicated, their inhibitions are lowered, which could result in an unsafe situation for your guests and staff. The goal is to diffuse the situation as quickly as possible in order to keep all individuals on the property safe.

If a person arrives visibly/obviously intoxicated/impaired (with any drug/alcohol) you **DO** have the right to refuse entry and/or the sale.

Visible Signs of Cannabis Impairment

Physical or visible signs of cannabis use may include:

- Red eyes
- Poor muscle coordination
- Impaired or delayed reaction times
- Increased appetite
- Dry mouth
- A sudden shift in mood from tense to relaxed
- Abrupt symptoms of anxiety, panic, and/or hallucinations

If you identify visible signs of cannabis impairment, as always, we encourage you to follow your House Policies and engage with a team leader or manager to assist you in working through the situation with the best customer service possible.

Recognizing Signs of Impairment: potential signs of impairment with **various substances** can include:

- Red and/or glassy eyes
- Flushed face
- Droopy eyelids
- Poor muscle coordination
- Impaired or delayed reaction times or attention
- Suspiciousness or paranoid ideation
- Rapid flow of ideas
- Impaired judgement
- Auditory, visual, or tactile illusions or hallucinations
- Depersonalization
- Derealization
- Interference with personal functioning
- Elevated heart rate
- Smell of alcohol, cannabis, or chemicals
- Increased or decreased appetite
- Dry mouth
- Dilated pupils
- A sudden shift in mood from tense to relaxed
- Abrupt symptoms of anxiety, panic, hallucinations, aggression, or agitation
- Thick, slurred speech
- Euphoria and disinhibition
- Vomiting
- Drowsiness, falling asleep, passing out
- Loud, noisy speech
- Rambling train of thought
- Unusually fast or slow talking
- Slow response to questions or comments
- Repetitive statements
- Bravado, boasting
- Making irrational statements
- Annoying other guests and employees
- Argumentative
- Aggressive or belligerent/Obnoxious or mean
- Inappropriate physical or sexual advances
- Overly friendly to other guests or employees
- Boisterous behavior
- Swaying, staggering, or stumbling
- Unable to sit straight
- Blank stare or dazed look
- Twitching or body tremors
- Disheveled clothing
- Crude or inappropriate behavior
- Careless with money
- Difficulty making change
- Restless
- Depressed or sullen/Crying or moody
- Overly animated or entertaining
- Lack of focus and eye contact
- Difficulty standing up
- Unusual walk
- Can't find mouth with glass
- Falling down or falling off chair
- Difficulty lighting cigarettes
- Lighting more than one cigarette
- Clumsy
- Difficulty remembering
- Spilling
- Disoriented
- Grinding teeth
- Excessive perspiration
- Repeated trips to the rest room or outside area
- Verbal confirmation from the individual in question

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If you suspect a consumer may be abusing cannabis, please consult with your manager.

Wondering what the signs of abuse may look like?

Behavioral Changes/Behaviors

- Often uses over-the-counter preparations to reduce eye reddening or nasal irritation
- Drives recklessly, and has car accidents or unexplained dents in the car
- Avoids eye contact
- Makes endless excuses
- Exhibits uncharacteristically loud, obnoxious behavior
- Has become unusually clumsy: stumbling, lacking coordination, poor balance

Mood & Personality Shifts

- Mood changes/emotional instability
- Sullen, withdrawn, depressed
- Shows loss of inhibitions
- Silent, uncommunicative
- Hostile, angry, uncooperative
- Deceitful or secretive
- Less motivated
- Unable to focus
- Hyperactive
- Unusually elated

School and Work Concerns

- Absenteeism or loss of interest
- Loss of interest in hobbies or sports
- Failure to fulfill responsibilities at work
- Reports of intoxication at school or work

Hygiene & Appearance Problems

- Messy appearance/Poor hygiene
- Track marks on arms or legs (or long sleeves in warm weather to hide marks)
- Burns or soot on fingers or lips (from “joints” or “roaches” burning down)

Health Issues

- Lethargic movement
- Slurred speech/rapid-fire speech
- Nosebleeds
- Sores, spots around mouth
- Seizures
- Vomiting
- Sudden or dramatic weight loss or gain
- Skin abrasions/bruises
- Accidents or injuries
- Depression
- Headaches