

Frequently Asked Questions

Cannabis Cultivation Licensing Applications: Who Is Considered an Owner?

Q. On the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s application for an annual cannabis cultivation license, who is officially considered an owner?

A. Examples of owners include the following:

- a person, business entity, or other group with an aggregate ownership interest of 20 percent or more in the business applying for the license
- the chief executive officer (CEO) of a nonprofit or other entity
- a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit
- an individual who will participate in the direction, control, or management of the business

Q. Which documents does an owner need to submit with an application for an annual cannabis cultivation license?

A. Each owner must provide a copy of a government-issued identification (such as a driver’s license or passport) and a completed electronic fingerprint application (see more information on this step below). If an owner has a history of criminal convictions, additional documents may be required (see more information on the other side).

Q. How should an owner submit fingerprints?

A. An owner must complete the Request for Live Scan Service Form (BCIA 8016), which is accessible after logging in to the CalCannabis Licensing Service website: aca6.accela.com/calcannabis/Welcome.aspx/
This form then needs to be taken to a Live Scan fingerprinting service; California’s Live Scan locations are listed by county: oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/locations

Q. How should an owner who does not reside in California submit fingerprints?

A. Owners who reside outside of California must complete the Applicant Fingerprint Form (FD-258); for a copy of this form, please contact the California Department of Food and Agriculture by sending an email to CalCannabis@cdfa.ca.gov or calling toll-free 1-833-CALGROW (1-833-225-4769).

Q. If an owner has been fingerprinted for another entity, does the fingerprinting process need to be repeated?

A. Yes. Fingerprint results are not shared between entities.

Q. If an owner has criminal convictions, what type of information needs to be provided with an application for an annual cannabis cultivation license?

A. The owner must provide a description of the offense, dates of conviction, and, if applicable, dates of incarceration, probation, and/or parole. An owner also may provide supporting documentation, such as:

- a certificate of rehabilitation
- evidence of dismissal
- reference letters

Q. Would criminal convictions prevent someone from getting an annual cannabis cultivation license from the state of California?

A. A license may be denied if someone has been convicted of a “substantially related” offense and there is insufficient evidence of rehabilitation. A substantially related offense is defined in section 8113 of the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Emergency Regulations for Cannabis Cultivation: static.cdfa.ca.gov/MCCP/document/060418%20CalCannabis%20Text%20of%20Proposed%20Emergency%20Regulations%20Readopt.pdf

Please note each owner’s application will be evaluated individually.