

## CANNABIS LAWS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Because cannabis is harmful, it is against the law to use, possess, grow, sell or supply cannabis in Western Australia.

Under the law, police can issue a Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) to people caught possessing or using small amounts of cannabis and/or possessing smoking implements found to contain traces of cannabis.

If you have been given a CIR, you must book and complete a Cannabis Intervention Session (CIS) within 28 days or you may elect to have the matter heard in court.

**28  
DAYS**

If you book and complete a CIS you will not need to appear in court. No further action will be taken against you for the alleged offence and you will not receive a criminal conviction.

Adults who fail to complete a CIS and/or commit a second or subsequent minor cannabis-related offence will be prosecuted through the courts.

Young persons (aged 14 to 17-years) are eligible to be given a CIR on two separate occasions. If they fail to complete a CIS and/or commit a third or subsequent minor cannabis-related offence they will be referred to a Juvenile Justice Team where appropriate under the Young Offenders Act 1994 rather than being charged.

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Changes in circumstances after the date of publication of this brochure inevitably will result in this brochure becoming outdated in some respects. It is the responsibility of readers of this brochure to keep themselves updated with any changes or developments.

**Cannabis Intervention Session Booking Service  
(7am-7pm, daily) – 1800 722 362**

### CIS APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

DATE ..... TIME .....

ADDRESS .....

**If you would like more information about cannabis or how to access support services in Western Australia, contact:**

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG INFORMATION SERVICE (ADIS)

- Free 24-hour, state-wide, confidential telephone service.
- Access to information about alcohol and other drugs confidentially and quickly.
- Talk to a professionally trained counsellor about alcohol and other drugs.
- Provides information, counselling and advice for people concerned about their own or another's alcohol or other drug use.
- Confidentially chat online to a qualified alcohol and drug counsellor via *Live Chat*.
- Find out about other services.

**ADIS: (08) 9442 5000**

**Toll free (country callers only): 1800 198 024**

**E-mail: [adis@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:adis@health.wa.gov.au)**

**Live Chat: [www.dao.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au)**

#### PARENT DRUG INFORMATION SERVICE (PDIS)

- Free alcohol and other drug information and support for parents and family members.
- Talk to a professionally trained counsellor about alcohol and other drugs.
- Talk confidentially to another parent for strategies and support.
- Find out where to go for further help.

**PDIS: (08) 9442 5050**

**Toll free (country callers only): 1800 653 203**

#### DRUG AND ALCOHOL WEBSITE - [www.dao.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au)

- For information about the Drug and Alcohol Office.
- Access various publications online including reports, documents and general information about alcohol and other drugs.
- Access the Alcohol and Other Drug Services directory for Western Australia.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Drug and Alcohol Office



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# CANNABIS INTERVENTION SESSION







## WHAT IS A CANNABIS INTERVENTION SESSION?

A Cannabis Intervention Session (CIS) provides you with an opportunity to consider your drug use in a supportive and respectful environment and to seek further help.

A CIS takes approximately one hour to complete, is available statewide and is provided by authorised professional alcohol and other drug treatment agencies.

As a participant at a CIS you will receive information about how cannabis affects your health and personal life, how to change your cannabis use and on the laws relating to cannabis.

You can also expect to:

- improve your personal decision-making skills relating to cannabis use;
- consider the harms associated with your cannabis use and how to minimise these;
- consider changing your drug use and how to do this; and
- receive information about how to access further support and assistance.

## WILL THE POLICE BE TOLD WHAT I SAY DURING A CANNABIS INTERVENTION SESSION?

No. The person running the CIS is not employed by the police. The matters you discuss during the sessions are confidential. The police will only be advised about whether or not you complete the CIS.

## WHAT WILL NOT HAPPEN AT THE CIS?

- You will not be drug tested or have a urine sample taken.
- The CIS is confidential and anything discussed in the CIS will not go outside of the room.
- The CIS is not an intelligence gathering session for the police.
- Police will not be present at the CIS.
- The CIS is not a lecture or preaching session.

## COMPLETING A CANNABIS INTERVENTION SESSION.

- Call the Cannabis Intervention Session Booking Service on 1800 722 362 to book a CIS. (See back cover of this brochure to write down your appointment time).
- Make sure you attend the CIS within 28 days from the time your CIR is issued.
- Bring a copy of the CIR to the CIS.
- Mention any special requirements (e.g. interpreter services) you may have at the time of booking your CIS.
- Actively participate in the whole session.



- If you are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs you will not be permitted to undertake the CIS.
- You will be required to certify that you are the person to whom the CIR was issued.

Accepted forms of photo identification include:

- a current drivers licence
- a current passport
- 18+ identification card
- other form of photo ID.



At the end of the CIS, the police will be notified that you have completed the session and you will be given a verification certificate.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T ATTEND A CANNABIS INTERVENTION SESSION?

If the 28-day period has expired and you have not completed a CIS or elected to have the matter heard and determined in court the offence will be prosecuted through the courts and you may be charged.

