

Notice to Unlawful Cannabis Sellers

This notice is to inform you that your current course of action may run afoul of Minnesota law, and continuing this course of action may result in civil actions and potential criminal prosecution. To avoid such outcomes, you should immediately cease and desist any plans to engage in the unlicensed sale of cannabis and cannabis products.

[Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342) governs Minnesota's cannabis market, and empowers OCM to ensure regulatory compliance. [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 342.09, subdivision 4 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.09#stat.342.09.4\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.09#stat.342.09.4) prohibits the retail sale of cannabis flower and cannabis products "without a license issued under this chapter that authorizes the sale." To date the Office of Cannabis Management has not issued any retail, or other, cannabis licenses. As such, your plan to sell cannabis in a retail setting at this date would be in flagrant violation of the law. Be aware that under [Minnesota Statutes, 342.09, subdivision 6 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.09#stat.342.09.6\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.09#stat.342.09.6), OCM may assess fines in excess of a \$1,000,000 for violations of this law.

Likewise, under [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 342.19 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.19\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.19), OCM is empowered to embargo any product that it has "probable cause to believe . . . is being distributed in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter[.]" It is believed that products attempted to be sold at your retail location might be distributed in violation of the law, and would therefore be subject to embargo by OCM. Under [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 342.19, subd. 2 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.19#stat.342.19.2\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/342.19#stat.342.19.2), once embargoed OCM "shall release the cannabis plant, cannabis flower, cannabis product, artificially derived cannabinoid, lower-potency hemp edible, or hemp-derived consumer product when this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter have been complied with or the item is found not to be in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter."

While Minnesota has legalized the sale of adult-use of cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products, the legislature did add new statutory provisions, [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 152.0264 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/152.0264\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/152.0264), making illegal the unlawful sale of cannabis. As there are not yet any licenses issued by OCM for the cultivation, manufacture, wholesale, transportation, or retail of cannabis, any sales of cannabis products in excess of the limits in 152.0264 is illegal.

If you are only planning to sell cannabinoid products that are derived from hemp, you should ensure that the sale of those products is consistent with [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 151.72 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/151.72\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/151.72), including but not limited to the requirement that your business be registered with the Commissioner of Health, and that all products are in compliance with the relevant statutes.

Finally, in addition to the state laws outlined above, please be aware that any retail location must be in compliance with local government ordinances and zoning requirements.

OCM takes seriously its charge to enforce Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342, and its responsibility to ensure a safe and legal cannabis market. In order to avoid the above-described actions, all attempts to open a cannabis retail dispensary in Minnesota without the appropriate license should be ceased.