

# The Family Integrity and Medical Cannabis Patient Protection Act

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**Purpose:** To ensure Iowa families participating lawfully in the state's medical cannabis program are not penalized in matters of custody, foster care, or adoption.

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## Section 1. Short Title

This Act shall be known as the **Family Integrity and Medical Cannabis Patient Protection Act**.

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## Section 2. Legislative Findings

The Iowa General Assembly finds that: 1. Iowa Code §124E authorizes the regulated medical use of cannabidiol for qualifying patients under physician supervision.

2. Federal classification of cannabis as a Schedule I substance creates conflict and uncertainty within Iowa's family-welfare and judicial systems.

3. Lawful participation in the Iowa medical cannabidiol program has been misinterpreted as "illegal drug use," resulting in denial of custody and foster-care eligibility.

4. Iowa law should clearly define that medical-cannabis participation, without evidence of impairment, cannot constitute child neglect, abuse, or unfitness.

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## Section 3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Act: - **"Medical cannabis patient"** means any individual registered under Iowa Code §124E and authorized to possess or administer medical cannabidiol.

- **"Impairment"** means demonstrable behavioral or cognitive dysfunction that endangers a child's health or safety, established by credible medical or law enforcement evidence.

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## Section 4. Patient Rights and Protections

1. Participation in Iowa's medical cannabidiol program shall not, by itself, constitute neglect, abuse, or endangerment.

2. Custody, foster-care, and adoption decisions shall not be denied, delayed, or revoked based solely on lawful patient status or THC presence without evidence of impairment.

3. Newborn or infant toxicology results shall not be grounds for investigation or referral absent corroborated medical evidence of harm.

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## **Section 5. Perinatal and Postnatal Care**

1. Pregnant and breastfeeding patients participating under Iowa Code §124E shall not be presumed negligent or unfit for lawful therapeutic use of medical cannabis.
  2. Iowa HHS shall adopt evidence-based guidance for healthcare providers to ensure non-punitive care and confidentiality.
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## **Section 6. Administrative Action**

Iowa HHS shall issue interpretive guidance clarifying that medical-cannabis participation does not constitute “illegal drug use” within the meaning of DHS regulations, and shall provide statewide training to child-welfare personnel.

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## **Section 7. Judicial Instruction**

The Iowa Supreme Court is encouraged to issue an administrative order advising that lawful medical-cannabis participation is not presumptive evidence of unfitness in any juvenile or family proceedings.

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## **Section 8. Effective Date**

This Act shall take effect upon enactment.