



Washington State
Liquor and Cannabis Board

April 17, 2019

Office of the Code Reviser:

Per RCW 34.05.335 and WAC 1-21-060, the Liquor and Cannabis Board is withdrawing rulemaking for WSR 19-07-085 (CR 102) relating to acceptable forms of identification and tribal identification.

The Board may refile proposed rules with a CR 102 after consultation with interested tribes.

Jane Rushford
Chair

Issue Paper

Mandatory Signs a Marijuana Licensee Must Post on a Licensed Premises

Date: March 6, 2019

Presented by: Kathy Hoffman, Policy and Rules Coordinator

Description of the Issue

Over the last two decades, and since the inception of cannabis legalization, use of cannabis among pregnant women has increased from 2.37% of pregnant women in 2002 to 7.1% in 2017.^{1 2} At the same time, perceptions of harm or risk about cannabis use among pregnant women has increased. Research around the use of cannabis efficacy or safety remains unchanged, however, and evidence suggests that cannabis use during pregnancy may be associated with low birthweight, pre-term birth, and cognitive delay. While there may be limitations on studies that associate cannabis use during pregnancy with fetal and child health risks, current evidence does not suggest that use during pregnancy is advisable, and information about potential risks is important for healthcare practitioners, pregnant people, and budtenders or employees who may be transferring knowledge on the topic.

Currently, WAC 314-55-086 describes mandatory signs that marijuana licensees must post on licensed premises. Among these is a sign stating, "Should not be used by women that are pregnant or breastfeeding." This specific warning previously aligned with the language of other existing rules concerning warnings on packaging, labeling and accompanying materials. As a result of recent changes to packaging, labeling and accompanying material rules, WAC 314-55-086 must be revised and updated.

This Issue Paper requests approval from the Board to file a rule proposal (CR102) regarding revisions to WAC 314-55-086 – Mandatory signs a marijuana licensee must post on a licensed premises.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Table 6.65B-Types of Illicit Drug Use in Past Month among Females Aged 15-44 by Pregnancy Status. Accessed January 16, 2019.

² Metz T., Borgelt LM. Marijuana Use in Pregnancy and While Breastfeeding. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. 2018. 132 (5): 1198-1210.

Why is rule making necessary?

Currently, WAC 314-55-086 addresses mandatory signage that a licensee must post on a licensed premises, including a notice about the prohibition of persons under twenty-one years of age on licensed premises, along with the warnings that are no longer requirements for accompanying material. As a result, the board proposes to amend and update WAC 314-55-086 by clarifying language for mandatory signage. This will provide rule clarity, and assure coordinated signage so that consumer messaging regarding the use of marijuana during pregnancy is consistent and clear. Additionally, rule language was updated and streamlined throughout the section to assure structural consistency, and uniform, clear guidance throughout the section.

These amendments support the overarching agency goal of ensuring the highest level of public safety by continually improving and enforcing regulations that reflect the current dynamic environment. Clarifying the rules and updating signage will not result in increased costs or administrative burden on the regulated community. Increasing consistent, clear messaging and enhancing public education efforts about the use of marijuana during pregnancy is expected to benefit both the regulated community and consumers.

What changes are being made?

Amended Section. Title – WAC 314-55-086. Revised title from “What are the mandatory signs a marijuana licensee must post on a licensed premises?” to “Mandatory Signage.”

Amended Section. WAC 314-23-086(1) Required signage for marijuana processors, producers, and retailers. Removed table to increase readability. Condensed former sections (1) and (2). Clarified and more clearly identified required signage for licensed marijuana processors, producers, and retailers regarding persons under twenty-one that must be posted at the entry to all licensed premises.

New Section. WAC 314-55-086(2) Clarified signage requirements for licensed retailers with medical marijuana endorsements.

New Section. WAC 314-55-86(3) Clarified, updated, and more clearly identified required signage for marijuana retailers regarding prohibition of opening a package of marijuana or marijuana infused products in public, and public consumption of marijuana or marijuana infused products.

Amended Section. WAC 314-55-086(4) Renumbered section, revised and updated language to conform with the remainder of the section.

New Section. WAC 314-55-086(5) Updated and renumbered section to conform with remainder of the section.

New Section. WAC 314-55-086(6) Section was renumbered; formerly section (4), with no language revisions.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-11-110, filed 5/18/16, effective 6/18/16)

WAC 314-55-086 (~~(What are the mandatory signs a marijuana licensee must post on a licensed premises?)~~) Mandatory signage. (1)
~~(Notices regarding persons under twenty-one years of age must be conspicuously posted on the premises as follows:~~

Type of licensee	Sign must contain the following language:	Required location of sign
Medical marijuana retailer	"Persons under twenty-one years of age not permitted on these premises without a valid qualifying patient card. Juvenile qualifying patients must be accompanied by their designated provider at all times."	Conspicuous location at each entry to premises.
Marijuana retailer	"Warning: This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Smoking is hazardous to your health." "There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product." "Should not be used by women that are pregnant or breast feeding." "Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not	At each point of sale.

Type of licensee	Sign must contain the following language:	Required location of sign
	operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug."	
Marijuana producer, marijuana processor, and marijuana retailer	"Persons under twenty-one years of age not permitted on these premises."	Conspicuous location at each entry to premises.

~~The WSLCB will provide the required notices, or licensees may design their own notices as long as they are legible and contain the required language.~~

~~(2) **Signs provided by the WSLCB**) All licensed marijuana processors, producers, and retailers, with the exception of licensed retailers with a medical marijuana endorsement, must conspicuously post a notice provided by the board about persons under twenty-one years of age at each entry to all licensed premises. The notice must contain all of the following language: "Persons under twenty-one years of age not permitted on these premises."~~

(2) All licensed retailers with a medical marijuana endorsement must conspicuously post a notice provided by the board regarding persons under twenty-one years of age at each entry to all licensed medical marijuana premises. The notice must contain all of the following language: "Persons under twenty-one years of age not permitted on these premises without a valid qualifying patient card.

Qualifying patients under the age of eighteen must be accompanied by their designated provider at all times."

(3) All licensed marijuana retailers must conspicuously post a sign provided by the board regarding the use of marijuana during pregnancy and breastfeeding as follows:

- (a) At each point of sale; and
- (b) In a location easily visible to employees.

(4) All licensed marijuana retailers must conspicuously post a notice provided by the board prohibiting the opening of a package of marijuana or marijuana-infused product in public or consumption of marijuana or marijuana-infused products in public((7)). The notice must be posted ((as follows:

Type of premises	Required location of sign
Marijuana retail	Posted in plain view at the main entrance to the establishment.

~~(3) The premises' current and valid master license with appropriate endorsements must be conspicuously posted on the premises and available for))~~ in plain view at the main entrance of the marijuana retail establishment.

(5) All licensed marijuana processors, producers, and retailers must conspicuously post on the premises and make available their current and valid master license or licenses with appropriate endorsements for inspection by ((WSLCB)) board enforcement officers.

~~((4))~~ (6) Firearms prohibited signs provided by the ~~((WSLCB))~~
board must be posted at the entrance of each producer, processor, and
retailer licensed location.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 69.50.342 and 69.50.345. WSR 16-11-110, §
314-55-086, filed 5/18/16, effective 6/18/16; WSR 15-11-107, § 314-55-
086, filed 5/20/15, effective 6/20/15. Statutory Authority: RCW
69.50.325, 69.50.331, 69.50.342, 69.50.345. WSR 13-21-104, § 314-55-
086, filed 10/21/13, effective 11/21/13.]