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k12 focus

Ashley's Law Amendment

On August 12, 2019, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed [Public Act 101-0370 \(SB 0455\)](#), which significantly expands *Ashley's Law* relating to the use and administration of medical cannabis to students in schools. The Governor also signed [Public Act 101-0363 \(SB 2023\)](#), which makes changes to the Compassionate Use of Cannabis Program Pilot Act (CUCPPA). The *Ashley's Law* changes will go into effect on January 1, 2020, while the changes to CUCPPA are effective August 9, 2019. This new legislation will require school boards to update their policies and procedures.

What changed?

- Medical cannabis prescribed by a physician can be **stored on school grounds** in the same manner as other medications (securely with direct access only by school personnel). Previously, the student's caregiver had to possess the medical cannabis.
- **School nurses and administrators may administer** medical cannabis to students on school grounds and school buses. The law previously only allowed administration by the student's caregiver.
- **Students may be allowed to self-administer** (not self-carry) medical cannabis, under the direct supervision of a school nurse or administrator.
- The law continues to allow the administration of medical cannabis while students are:
 - on school premises
 - at school-sponsored activities
 - attending before and after school activities
 - transported to and from school and activities
- Parents/Guardians must provide a copy of a current Medical Cannabis Registry Card issued by the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) for both themselves and their child under the [Illinois Compassionate Use of](#)

- **School nurses and administrators are not subject** to arrest, prosecution, or denial of any right or privilege when complying with *Ashley's Law*.
- At the present time, **minors in Illinois may only be prescribed cannabidiol (CBD) oil**; they are not allowed to smoke or vape cannabis.
- Medical marijuana patients can now **have up to 3 designated caregivers**, provided certain conditions are met.
- **Debilitating medical conditions now include:** autism, chronic pain, and migraines, among others.



Ashley with her parents, Jim and Maureen Surin

Ashley was diagnosed with leukemia when she was only two years old; her cancer is in remission. As a result of chemotherapy treatments, she developed debilitating seizures, which were treatable only through the use of cannabidiol (CBD) oil, a form of medical marijuana. This course of treatment has resulted in the marked reduction of Ashley's seizure activity.

'*Ashley's Law*' (Public Act 100-660) was initially passed by the Illinois legislature effective August 1, 2018. Ashley will be entering 8th grade in the fall at Schaumburg CCSD 54.

