



ORONO POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Protect with Vigilance & Serve with Compassion and Excellence

Subject:	Prohibition of Marijuana / Cannabis Use or Possession	Policy #	A-37
Effective Date:	January 5, 2026	Review Cycle:	2 Years
Distribution:	All Sworn Personnel	# of pages:	1
MLEAP:	2.20		
	<i>Rescinds All Previous Policies Related To This Current Policy</i>		
Issuing Authority:	Chief of Police Daniel Merrill		

I. POLICY

MLEAP 2.20

All employees of the Orono Police Department must abide by the highest standards of legal and ethical behavior. The integrity of each employee ultimately reflects on the integrity of the police department as a whole.

This is especially the case for employees of the Orono Police Department who, in the course of their duties, provide sworn testimony in administrative, legal, or judicial proceedings, or in legal instruments such as affidavits.

The strength and reliability of the Orono Police Department employee's word, be it given on a witness stand or in a court filing, cannot be left vulnerable to questions of whether the employee chooses arbitrarily to follow some, but not all, federal and state laws

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Orono Police Department's prohibition on the use and possession of marijuana or cannabis products in any form and the prohibition in seeking or holding an interest in a marijuana dispensary, social club, or retail establishment.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. Regardless of any provision of any Maine law, the use and possession of marijuana and/or cannabis is unlawful under Federal Law; Controlled Substances Act, Schedule I. Accordingly, an employee may not use or possess marijuana and/or cannabis in any form if:
 1. The employee is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief of Police.
 2. The employee is a sworn law enforcement officer.
 3. The employee is in a position in that, based on the nature and historical duties of the position, there is a reasonable possibility that employee will provide sworn testimony in administrative, legal, or judicial proceeding and/or in legal instruments, such as an affidavit.

- B. Federal law prohibits unlawful users of marijuana or any other controlled substance from purchasing or possessing firearms and ammunition. It is a federal crime to sell or otherwise dispose of a firearm or ammunitions to anyone knowing "or having reasonable cause to believe" that the person unlawfully uses a controlled substance. These prohibitions include permitting a law enforcement officer who unlawfully uses or is addicted to marijuana to purchase, own or possess a firearm or ammunition on or off duty.

- C. A violation of this policy is grounds for termination of employment.