ABCA Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration

How to Register as a Patient

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ABCA's Medical Cannabis Program

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AGENCY, PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) is an independent agency within DC Government charged with supporting the public's health, safety, and welfare through the control and regulation of the sale and distribution of alcohol and medical cannabis. ABCA operates under the authority of the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board.

- ABCA is responsible for issuing patient and caregiver registrations and medical cannabis business licenses, tracking medical cannabis products from seed to sale, and enforcing DC alcohol and medical cannabis laws and regulations.

- DC's medical cannabis program permits persons with a valid medical cannabis patient registration issued by ABCA or a US state or territory extended reciprocity to purchase cannabis from a licensed Retailer for medical purposes.

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Before You Start

Privacy, Licensed Retailers, Purchase Amounts

BEFORE YOU START

- ABCA does not disclose personal information of patients or caregivers with any District Government or federal government agency or other third parties.
- Product purchases are tracked using unique patient numbers, and the seed-to-sale system does not store personally identifiable information. This is a core component of the program's privacy protection for patients.
- A licensed Retailer may assist registering you as a patient. If support is provided, enter your personal email rather than the Retailers to protect your privacy and ensure that you receive your registration.
- Completing the registration online before you go to a Retailer significantly reduces your wait time, as you will already be verified as a patient.

LICENSED RETAILERS

- DC has 64 licensed Retailers and three (3) Internet Retailers across the city. Open and operating licensed Retailers are listed on ABCA's website by Ward.
- Purchasing cannabis products from licensed retailers offers several advantages. The licensed market is heavily regulated, providing protections that are unavailable when buying from unregulated or illicit sources including:
    - Product safety. All cannabis products must be tested by an independent laboratory. This testing ensures products are free from harmful contaminants such as pesticides, mold, and heavy metals.
    - Product label accuracy. Licensed products are required to have clear, accurate labels detailing the ingredients, potency, and dosage information. This transparency helps consumers make informed choices and achieve their desired effects.
    - Responsible Packaging and Labeling. Packaging is strictly regulated to prohibit designs, images, or branding that could appeal to children, such as cartoon characters or branding that imitates popular candies.
    - Support for local businesses. By supporting licensed retailers, consumers help build a regulated and responsible cannabis industry. Many licensed DC businesses are also locally owned, ensuring that profits circulate within the District.

PURCHASE AMOUNTS

- The maximum amount a Licensed Retailer and Internet Retailer may distribute, dispense, or sell to a qualifying patient directly or through their caregiver, in a 30-day period is:
  - Eight (8) ounces of dried medical cannabis; or
  - Two hundred and forty (240) grams of medical cannabis concentrate for a patient 21 years old of age or older, or sixty (60) grams of medical cannabis concentrate for a patient between 18 and 20 years old; or
  - Medical cannabis product in any form containing a combined total of 600,000 mg of THC.
- Higher-dosage edibles are only available to patients who have a healthcare recommendation.

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Patients

Registration, Reciprocity

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

DC Residents—Requirements

- Adults (Persons 18 years or older)
  - Must complete and submit an Adult Medical Cannabis Patient Registration. Online registration is strongly encouraged.
  - Persons 21 years or older may self-certify in lieu of providing a healthcare provider recommendation.
  - Persons between 18-20 years of age must include a healthcare recommendation number.
- Minors (Persons 17 years or younger)
  - A parent or legal guardian must complete and submit a Minor Medical Cannabis Patient Registration on behalf of the minor.
  - Registrations require a healthcare recommendation number and an ABCA registered Caregiver number to be included.
  - Registrations must be submitted in-person, mailed, or emailed to ABCA.CannabisInfo@dc.gov using "Patient Application" as the subject. An online option is not available.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

DC Residents—Recommendations

- DC law permits five (5) types of healthcare practitioners to issue medical cannabis recommendations to their patients include physicians, naturopathic physicians (ND) advanced practice registered nurses (APRN), physician assistants, and dentists.
- Healthcare practitioners must be registered with ABCA to issue recommendations. DC residents should consult the registered healthcare practitioner roster online to see if their provider is registered or to find an alternate option. Registration is free for healthcare providers and never expires or needs to be renewed.
    - Please note that listing in the roster is optional. Accordingly, some registered healthcare providers decline to be included. ABCA recommends DC residents contact their healthcare provider if they do not see their name listed.
- Valid recommendation numbers are comprised of eight (8) digits, starting with two zeros, and are provided to patients directly by their healthcare practitioner.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

DC Residents—Reduced Fee

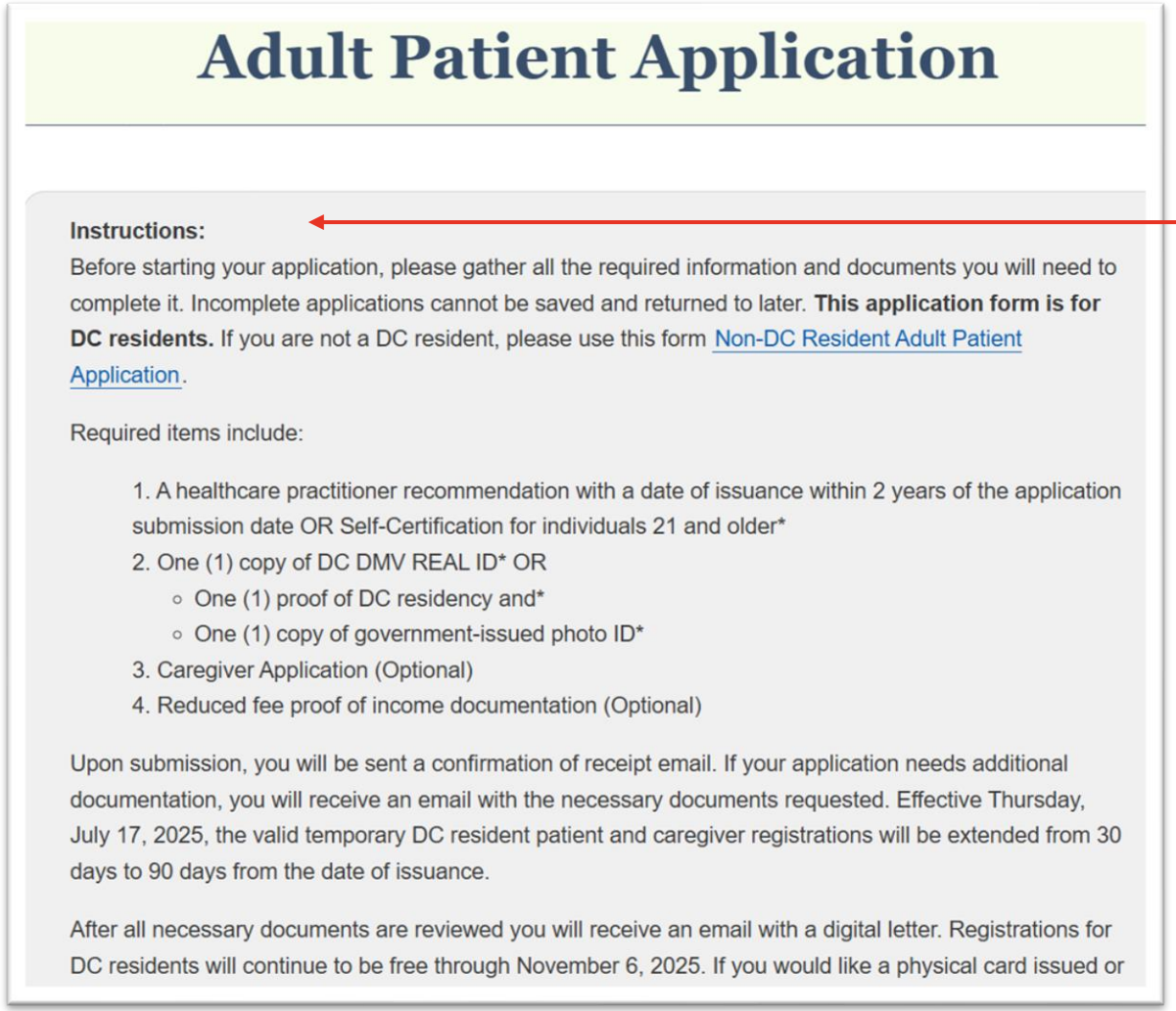
- Low-income patients may qualify for 20 percent off medical cannabis products, excluding paraphernalia, from licensed Retailers.
- To qualify, registrants must include proof of being a current Medicaid or DC Alliance recipient or documentation verifying their total gross income with their registration. Income verification is required for each renewal or replacement card request.
- Eligible documents include but are not limited to:
  - Earnings statements received within the previous thirty (30) days
  - DC or federal tax returns for the most recent tax year
  - A copy of an offer of employment that states the amount of salary to be paid for newly employed individuals
  - A copy of a Social Security or worker's compensation benefit statement
  - Proof of child support or alimony received
- Approved patients, and affiliated Caregivers (if applicable) are issued a registration with a red border to denote eligibility to Retailers.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

DC Residents—Fees and Valid Periods

- There is NO fee to register or renew a registration. Fees are waived until November 2025.
- The fee to purchase a physical registration card is $10.
  - All approved registrations regardless of submission method are issued a digital registration unless a physical registration card is purchased.
  - Digital and physical card registrations may be used interchangeably.
  - Select “Card Request” as the Registration Type and you will receive a payment link when your request is processed. Once paid, your physical card will be sent to the address provided.
- Upon submission, persons are emailed a digital registration valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. A permanent registration valid for two (2) years from the date of initial application is sent to the same email address if approved.
  - Registrations issued before March 2, 2025, for a six (6) year period will continue to be valid through the date included on the registration.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW



Adult Patient Application

Instructions:

Before starting your application, please gather all the required information and documents you will need to complete it. Incomplete applications cannot be saved and returned to later. **This application form is for DC residents.** If you are not a DC resident, please use this form Non-DC Resident Adult Patient Application.

Required items include:

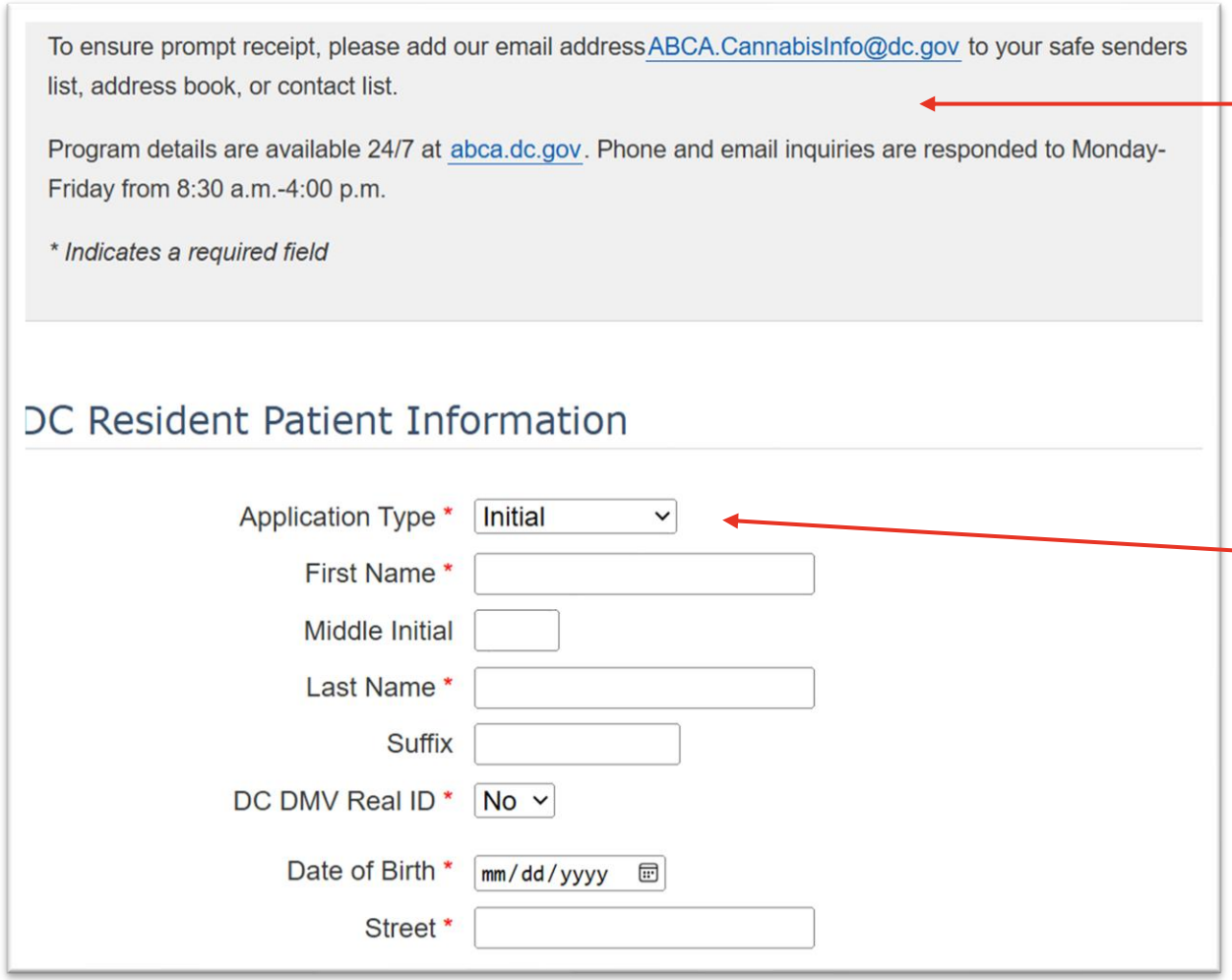
1. A healthcare practitioner recommendation with a date of issuance within 2 years of the application submission date OR Self-Certification for individuals 21 and older*
2. One (1) copy of DC DMV REAL ID* OR
   - One (1) proof of DC residency and*
   - One (1) copy of government-issued photo ID*
3. Caregiver Application (Optional)
4. Reduced fee proof of income documentation (Optional)

Upon submission, you will be sent a confirmation of receipt email. If your application needs additional documentation, you will receive an email with the necessary documents requested. Effective Thursday, July 17, 2025, the valid temporary DC resident patient and caregiver registrations will be extended from 30 days to 90 days from the date of issuance.

After all necessary documents are reviewed you will receive an email with a digital letter. Registrations for DC residents will continue to be free through November 6, 2025. If you would like a physical card issued or

Read all instructions before filling out your registration.

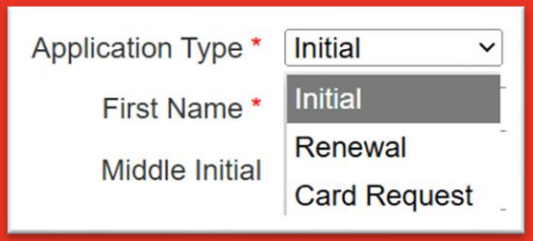
REGISTRATION OVERVIEW



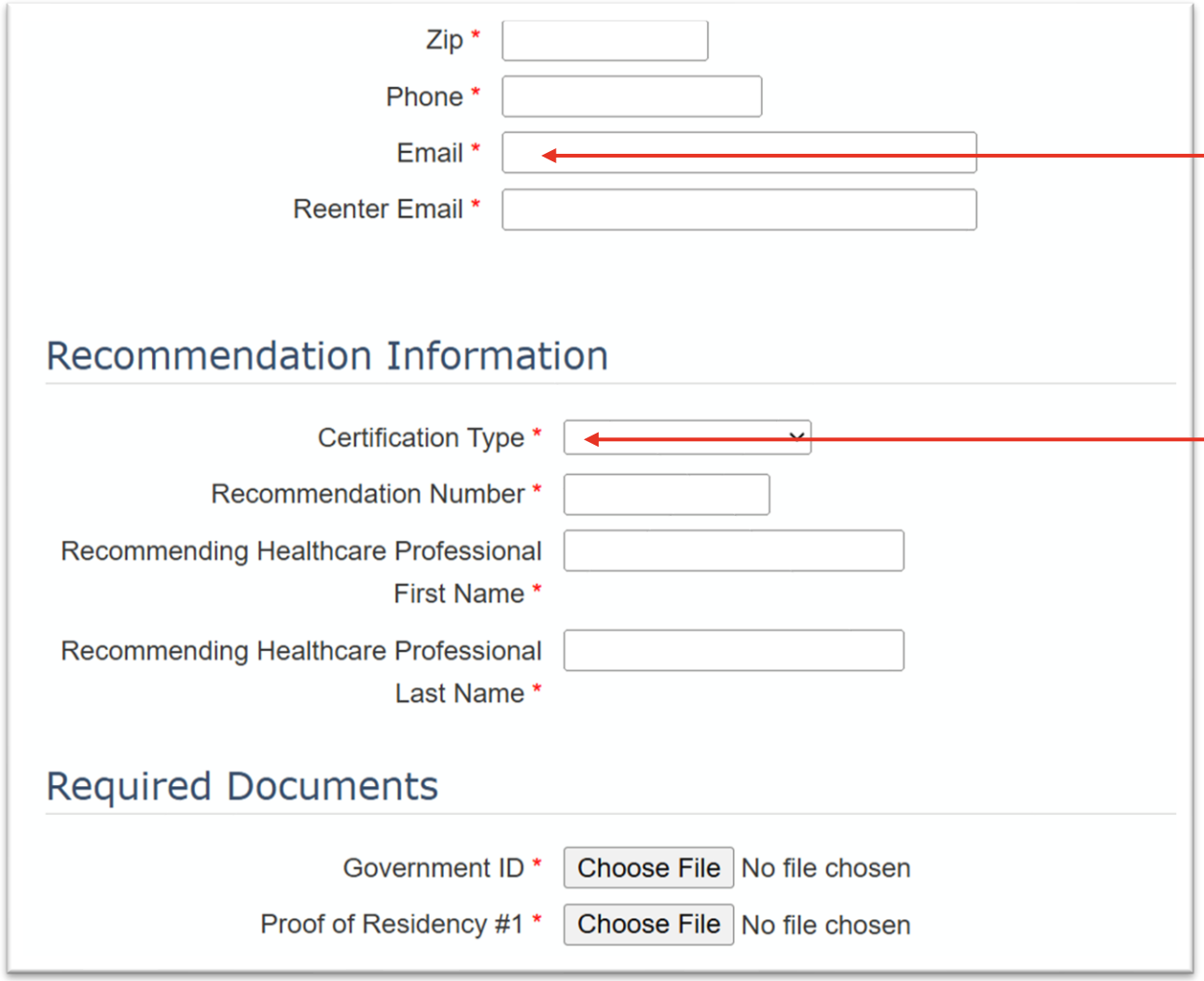
Agency contact information can be found on the registration form if questions arise during the process.

Asterisks indicate a required item. Registrations cannot be processed if they are incomplete.

The registration form allows registrants to apply for a new registration, a renewal, and a physical card request.

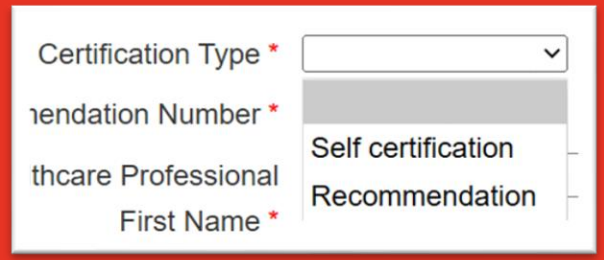


REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

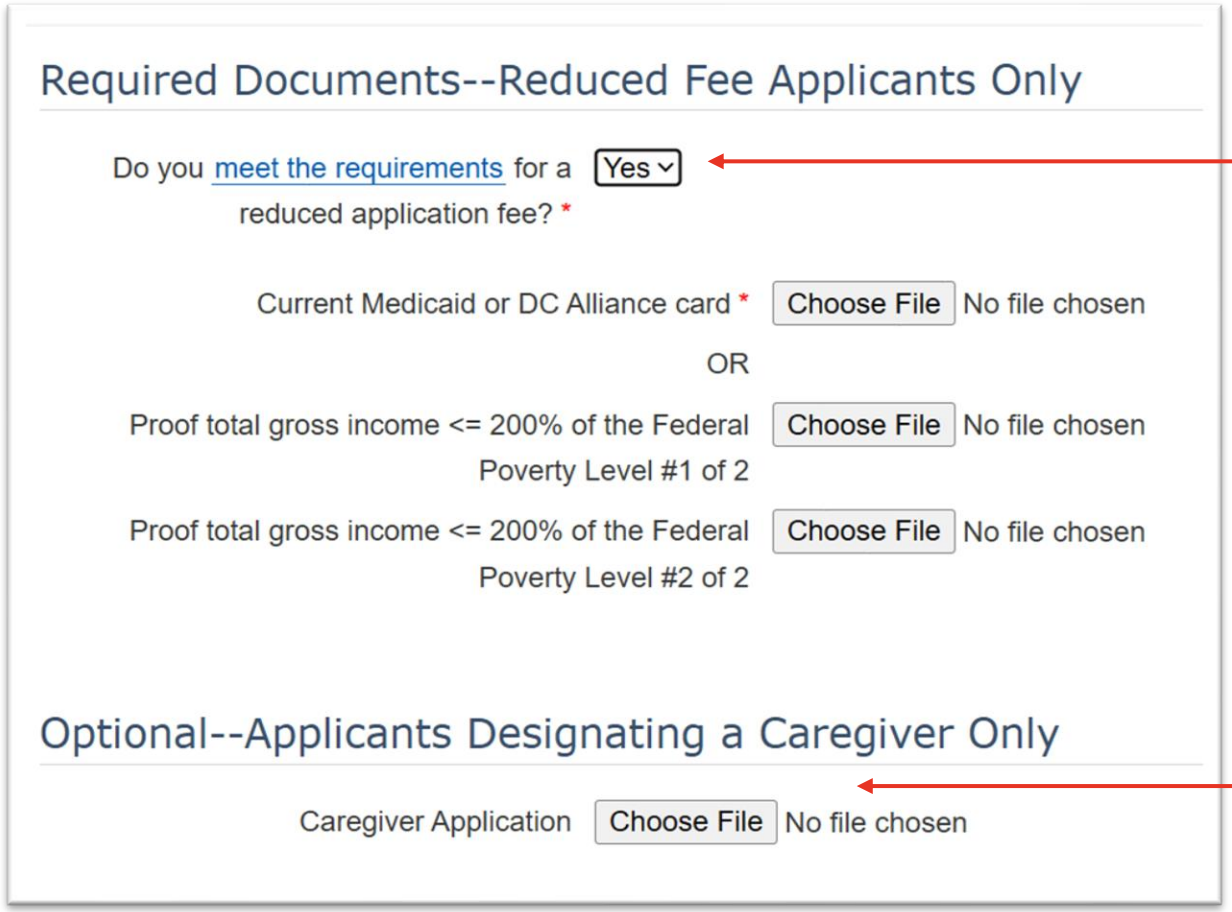


If you are registering at a cannabis retailer, please submit your personal email address, not the retailer's.

Patients 21+ may self-certify, meaning they do not need a healthcare practitioner recommendation number. All other types of patients must provide a recommendation.



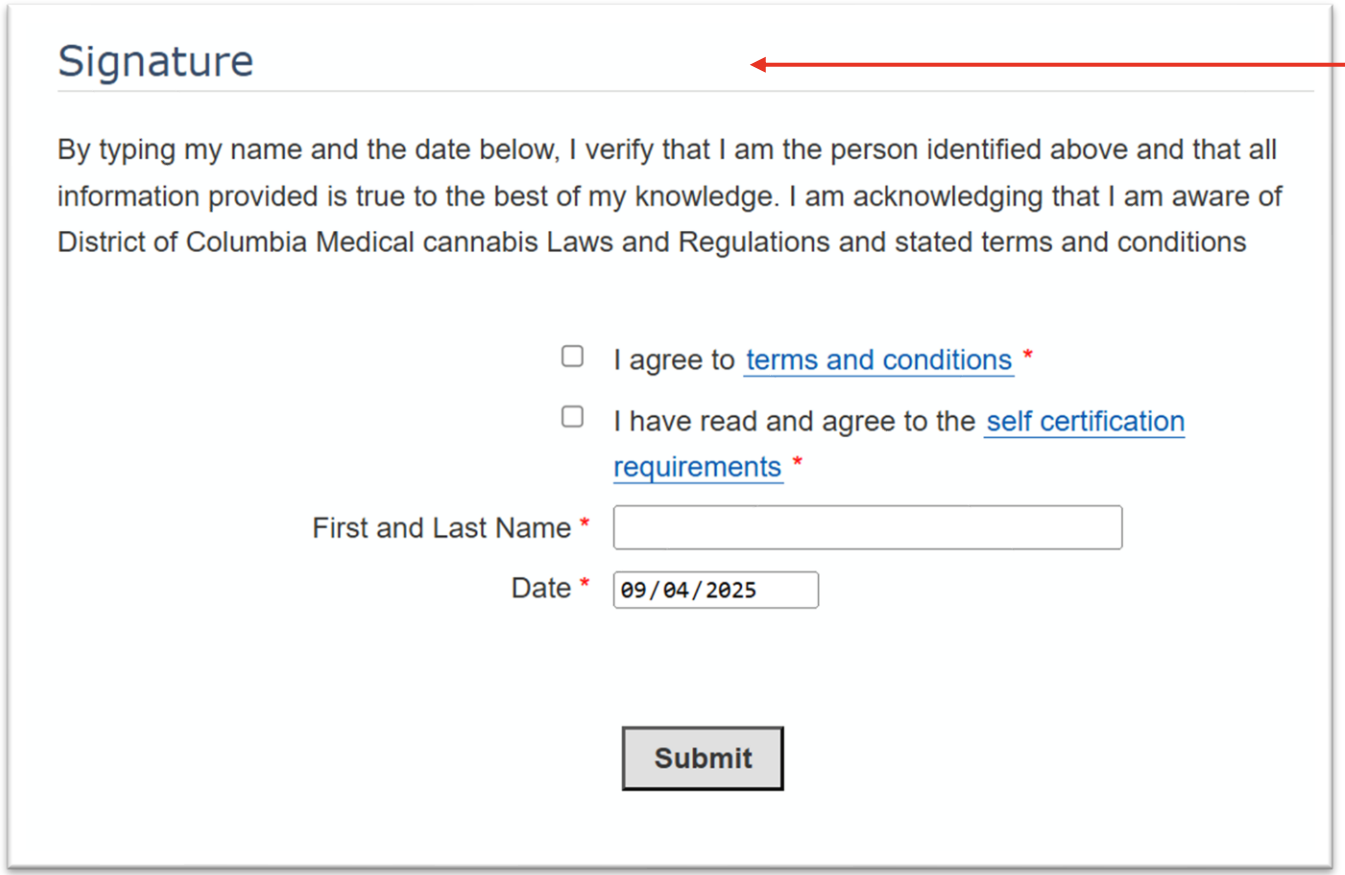
REGISTRATION OVERVIEW



To qualify for a reduced fee, registrants must provide proof of being a current Medicaid or DC Alliance recipient or documentation verifying their total gross income with their completed registration.

If a patient needs to designate a caregiver, the caregiver registration must be filed alongside the patient registration. Online registration is not possible for caregivers at this time.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW



Complete form by providing an electronic signature certifying that you are the person filling out the form and the information provided was true to the best of your knowledge.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

Non-DC Residents—Requirements

- Adults (Persons 21 years or older)
  - Must complete and submit the *Non-Resident Adult Patient Registration*. Online registration is required.
  - Persons are required to self-certify that they will only purchase medical cannabis to treat a health condition. Non-DC residents may not submit a healthcare provider recommendation in lieu of self-certification.
- Adults (18-20 years of age) and Minors (Persons 17 years or younger)
  - Persons that are 20 years of age who are not DC-residents may not register for a DC Patient registration.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

Non-DC Residents—Fees and Valid Periods

- For non-DC residents, the five (5) valid period options for a medical cannabis card are 3, 30, 90, 180, and 365 days. The card's validity period begins on the date of payment.
- Individuals are not capped at the number of registrations they may request per year.
- Upon submission, a single use payment link is sent to the same email address. Upon payment, a digital registration valid for the selected period is emailed.

Valid Period	Fee
Three (3) days	$10
30 days	$20
90 days	$50
180 days	$75
365 days	$100

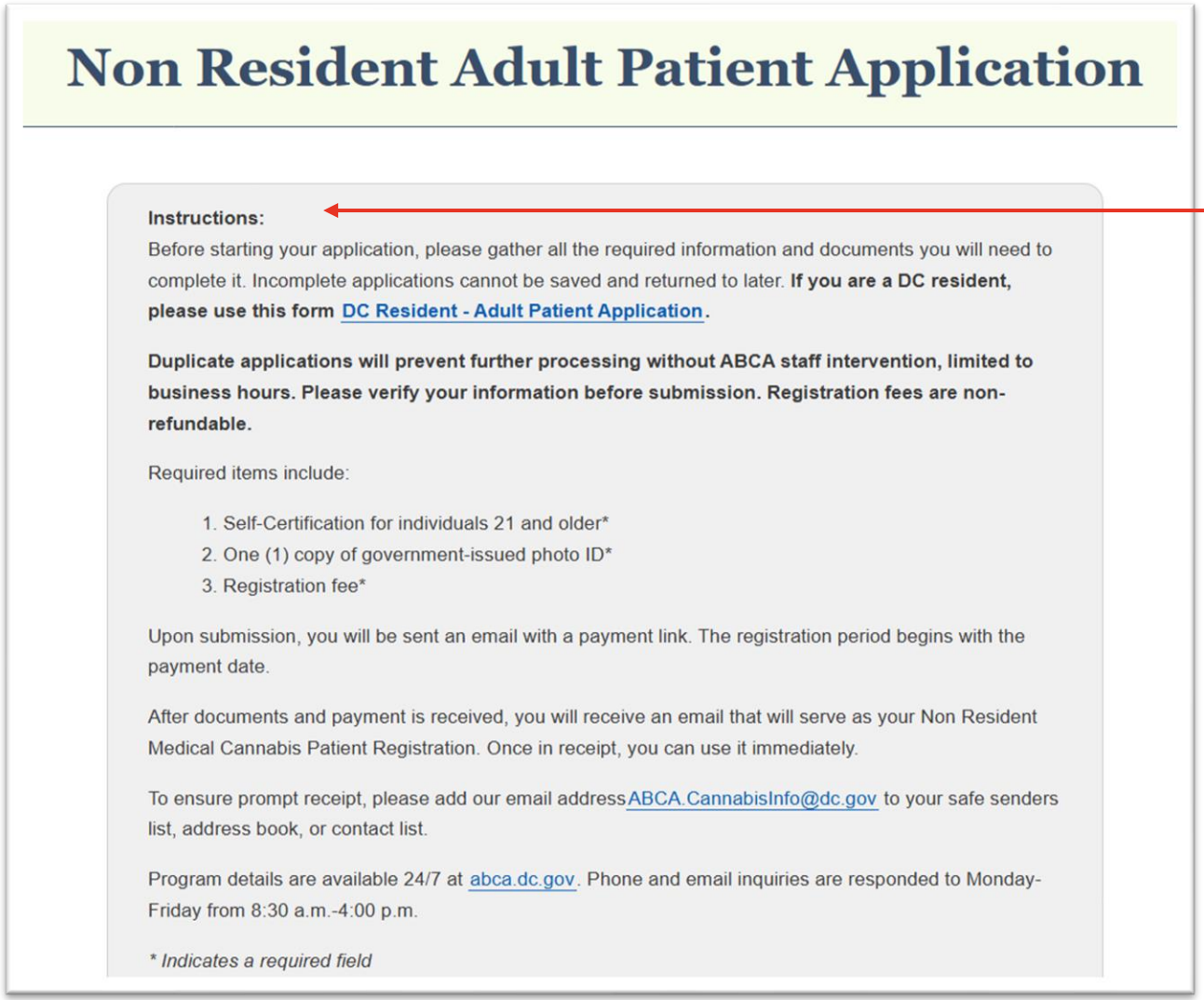
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Non-DC Residents—Reciprocity

- If you are a non-D.C. resident and do not have a medical cannabis card from a state or territory with reciprocity, you can still purchase medical cannabis in D.C. by applying for a temporary patient registration.
- There is no reciprocity fee.
- US states and territories with extended reciprocity include:

Alaska	Montana
Arizona	Nevada
Arkansas	New Hampshire
California	New Jersey
Colorado	New Mexico
Connecticut	New York
Delaware	North Carolina - Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Florida	North Dakota
Georgia	Ohio
Hawaii	Oklahoma
Illinois	Oregon
Iowa	Pennsylvania
Kentucky	Puerto Rico
Maine	Rhode Island
Maryland	South Dakota
Massachusetts	Utah
Michigan	Vermont
Minnesota	Virginia
Mississippi	Washington
Missouri	West Virginia

NON-DC RESIDENT REGISTRATION



Non Resident Adult Patient Application

Instructions:

Before starting your application, please gather all the required information and documents you will need to complete it. Incomplete applications cannot be saved and returned to later. **If you are a DC resident, please use this form DC Resident - Adult Patient Application.**

Duplicate applications will prevent further processing without ABCA staff intervention, limited to business hours. Please verify your information before submission. Registration fees are non-refundable.

Required items include:

1. Self-Certification for individuals 21 and older*
2. One (1) copy of government-issued photo ID*
3. Registration fee*

Upon submission, you will be sent an email with a payment link. The registration period begins with the payment date.

After documents and payment is received, you will receive an email that will serve as your Non Resident Medical Cannabis Patient Registration. Once in receipt, you can use it immediately.

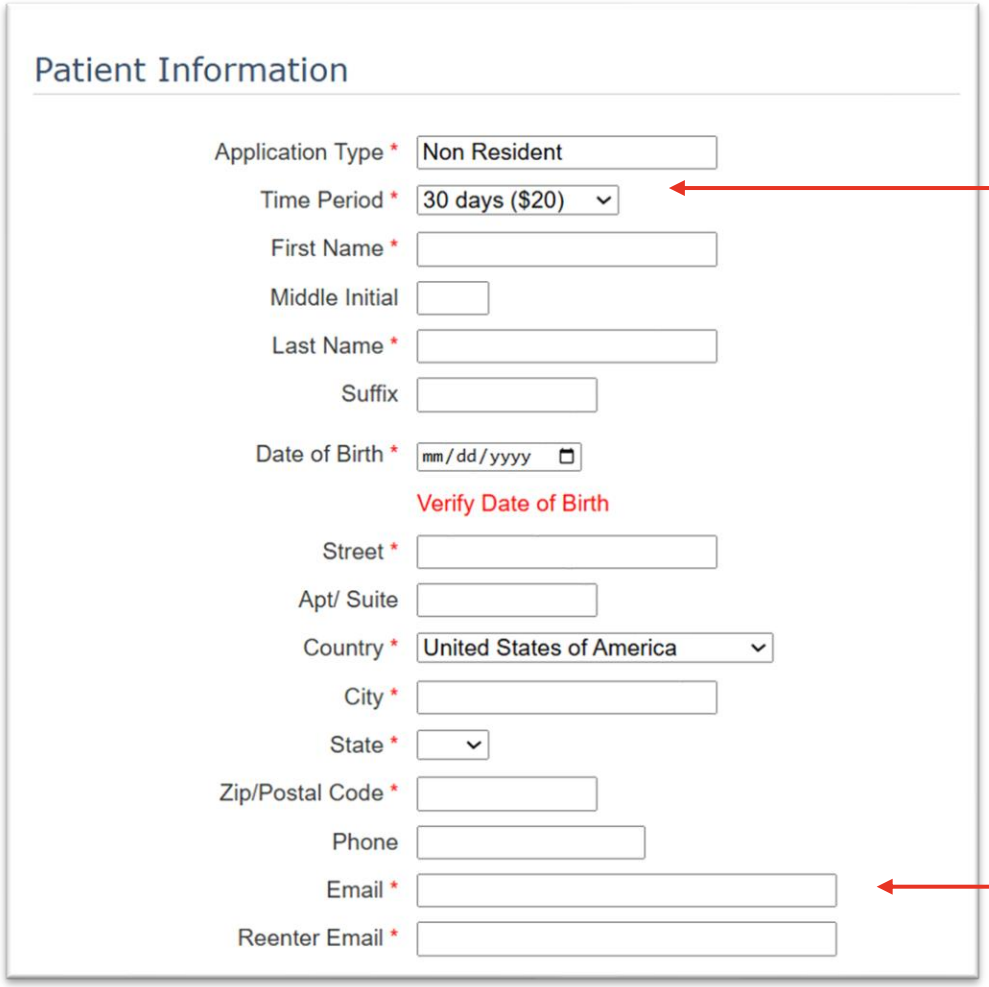
To ensure prompt receipt, please add our email address ABCA.CannabisInfo@dc.gov to your safe senders list, address book, or contact list.

Program details are available 24/7 at abca.dc.gov. Phone and email inquiries are responded to Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

** Indicates a required field*

Read all instructions before filling out your registration.

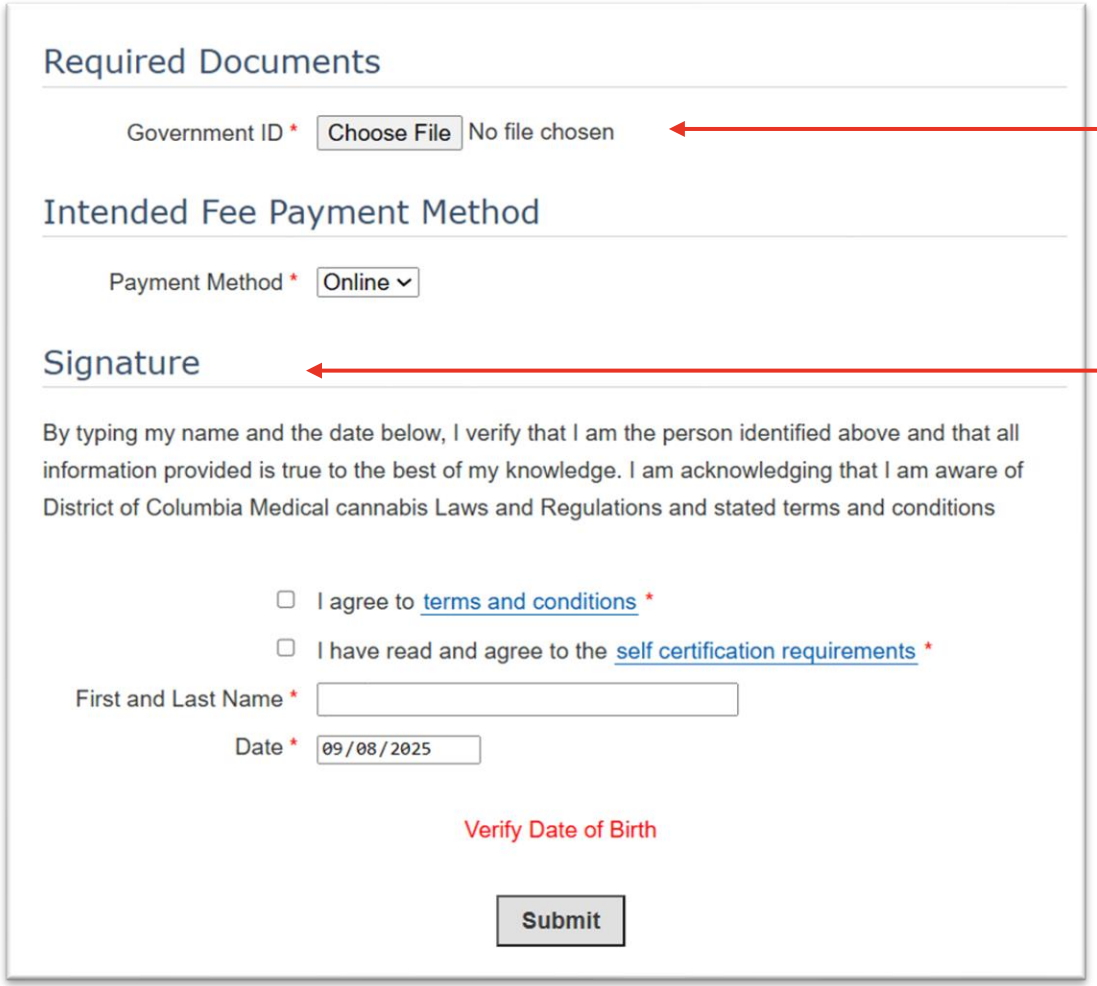
NON-DC RESIDENT REGISTRATION



Select how many days you wish to be registered:

If you are registering at a cannabis retailer, please submit your personal email address, not the retailer's.

NON-DC RESIDENT REGISTRATION



Upload a copy of your government issued photo ID.

Complete form by providing an electronic signature certifying that you are the person filling out the form and the information provided was true to the best of your knowledge.

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Caregivers

Registration

CAREGIVERS

A caregiver is a person designated by a qualifying medical cannabis patient as the person authorized to possess, obtain from a retailer, dispense, and assist in the administration of medical cannabis.

- Persons complete and submit a *Medical Cannabis Caregiver Registration*.
- Registrations must be submitted in-person, mailed, or emailed to ABCA.CannabisInfo@dc.gov using "Caregiver Registration" as the subject. An online option is not available.

CAREGIVERS

- There is NO fee to register or renew a registration.

- The fee to purchase a physical registration card is $10.
  - All approved registrations regardless of submission method are issued a digital registration unless a physical registration card is purchased.
  - Digital and physical card registrations may be used interchangeably.
  - Select “Card Request” as the Registration Type and you will receive a payment link when your request is processed. Once paid, your physical card will be sent to the address provided.

- Registrations are valid for two (2) years from the date of issuance.

CAREGIVERS

- Both the patient and the caregiver must be registered for a caregiver to purchase on the patient's behalf.
- Caregivers may be utilized for patients with compromised immunity or are home-bound. They are required for patients 17 or under.
- A caregiver may represent multiple patients, and they do not need to be a D.C. resident.

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Complaints

Enforcement

COMPLAINTS

- Complaints about licensed and unlicensed medical cannabis businesses may be submitted to ABCA 24/7 online or by phone. All complaints are investigated.

WHO TO CONTACT

- Licensing specialists are available to process registrations and respond to inquiries from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Office closures are noticed to the public on ABCA's website: abca.dc.gov.

- Email| abca.cannabisInfo@dc.gov (Preferred)

- Phone | 202.442.4423

- In-Person/Mail |

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ABCA Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration

Questions?

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