

Marijuana Possession Laws in Ohio

Possession of a small amount of marijuana has been decriminalized in Ohio. If you're found in possession of **less than 100 grams of pot (3 1/2oz)**, you will only be ticketed and charged with a "minor misdemeanor". This carries a fine of \$100. However, if you had more than 100 grams, you will face penalties as shown in the box below. A few ounces is not necessarily a lot of marijuana for a casual smoker, so the charges can be significant. And larger volumes can lead to charges of felony drug dealing, even if the amount of have is strictly for personal use.

Amount	Charge	Penalty
100-200 grams	4 th degree misdemeanor	Up to 30 days in jail \$250 in fines.
200-1,000 grams	5 th degree felony	6 months to 1 year in prison and \$2,500 in fines.
1,000- 5,000 grams	3 rd degree felony	1-5 years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines.
5,000- 20,000 grams	3 rd degree felony	1-5 years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines.
20,000 grams or more	2 nd degree felony	2-8 years and up to \$15,000 in fines.

Ref: [ORC2925.11](#)

Drug Sentencing – Alternatives to Incarceration

Depending on your criminal history and the facts of your case, you could qualify for **diversion**, or probation. Diversion is a program that allows for the charges to be dismissed if you complete a period of supervision and adhere to certain conditions. Probation is similar in that you will be supervised and have to conform to the rules but the charges aren't dismissed. When it comes to criminal charges, no one wants to be incarcerated. Fighting the serious and potentially life changing penalties of a drug possession conviction is the number one goal of a defense lawyer. Even if it's only for a short amount of time, being locked up is not only traumatic, it can cost you your job and put a serious strain on your personal relationships. In most jurisdictions there are alternatives available.

Ohio Cocaine Possession – Laws & Penalties

Under Ohio law, the penalties you face for a cocaine possession charge are dependent on the amount of cocaine you are accused of possessing. Whether it is in powder or crack form, the more cocaine you have, the greater the possible sentence.

Amount	Charge	Penalty
Up to 5 grams	5 th degree felony	6-12 months in prison and \$2,500 in fines
5 to < 10 grams	4 th degree felony	6- 18 months in prison and \$5,000 in fines
10 to < 20 grams	3 rd degree felony	1-5 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines
20 to < 27 grams	2 nd degree felony	2-8 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines
27 to <100 grams	1 st degree felony	3-10 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines
100 grams or more	1 st degree felony	3-10 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines

*Some cocaine possession charges also carry a **mandatory minimum** sentence, which means you will serve at least a portion of your sentence behind bars without exception.*

Of course, if you have a lengthy criminal history or if your charges involve violence, your sentence can be elevated.

Plea Bargains in Cocaine Cases

Cocaine possession cases in Ohio rarely result in a conviction at a trial. Instead, they are usually settled with a plea agreement. This means that you agree to admit guilt in exchange for a lenient sentence or reduced charges. Sometimes, you can avoid prison time altogether with a good plea agreement. The chances of this happening depend on a variety of factors including your criminal history, the prosecutor on your case, and the specific facts of your case.