



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY
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ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

ELAINE CLARK
ACTING COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY

JOHN HUDAK
DIRECTOR

January 8, 2026

Gynger S. Johnston

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re: Notice of Administrative Action including Revocation of Individual Identification Card
Gynger S. Johnston, IIC8836
OCP Incident # 2025-ACP-1624

Dear Ms. Johnston,

This Notice of Administrative Action is issued pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedures Act (Maine APA), Title 5, Ch. 375, subchapter 4, to Gynger S. Johnston, IIC8836, for violations of the Cannabis Legalization Act (CLA), Title 28-B, Ch. 1 and the *Adult Use Cannabis Program Rule*, 18-691 CMR, Ch. 30 as described below. In response to these actions, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, acting through its Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP), (collectively, "The Department") is taking the administrative actions detailed in this notice.

The licensee named herein is subject to the administrative actions pursuant to 28-B MRS § 801 as described in Part II and III below that may be timely appealed in accordance with the Maine APA in accordance with Part IV of this Notice. Failure to timely appeal will result in the imposition of the administrative actions described herein.

I. Summary of AUCP Investigation of Gynger S. Johnston, IIC8836:

1. Coastal Maine LLC AMS1243, DBA Columbia Recreational Marijuana is owned by Jonathan Bedard and is located at 265 U.S. Highway 1, Columbia, Maine.
2. On 08/16/25, an OCP Contracted Compliance Agent (CCA) conducted a compliance check with an 18-year-old underage buyer. A report was completed by the CCA, and a Violation Notice was issued to Columbia Recreational Marijuana.
3. The CCA reported that on August 16, 2025, at approx. 5:05 pm they and the underage buyer traveled to Columbia Recreational Marijuana Adult Recreational Cannabis Store located at 265 U.S. Highway 1, Columbia, ME, to conduct a compliance check at the store.

4. Upon arrival, the underage buyer entered the store through the front door. The front door was locked until the employee unlocked the door and allowed entry without age verification.
5. Once inside, the underage buyer was able to purchase one pre-roll without showing identification. The female employee did ask to see the underage buyer's identification, but once the underage buyer did not produce one, the employee used her own identification to complete the sale. The employee told the underage buyer that the cost was \$22.00. The underage buyer had to return to the car for more money. The underage buyer returned to the store with the extra funds and then left the store with the pre-roll which was turned over to the CCA.
6. The CCA then entered the store and spoke with the employee, identified as you, Gynger S. Johnston, and you told the CCA that you recalled the sale and said the purchaser did have identification. The CCA informed you that that was not true, and you admitted to using your own identification to complete the transaction. A notice of violation was issued.
7. On August 28, 2025, at approx. 10:00 am, OCP Compliance Inspectors (CI) Wade Maddox and James York traveled to Columbia Recreational Marijuana Adult Recreational Store AMS 1243 and met with you and owner Jonathan Bedard.
8. CI Maddox spoke to you, and you advised you sold one pre-roll to a minor and used your own Maine ID to complete the transaction. You noted the pre-roll was one Hazy Hill pre-roll which cost a total of \$11.00. You could not explain why the records show the sale was \$22.00 and you stated the only pre-roll at that price would be a Fog Cutter pre-roll which was also sold at the store. You indicated the store uses the point-of-sale system, Blaze. You used your own ID for the sale to go through as the customer had no ID. You indicated you had never done such a thing before and had never stolen funds or product from the store. You noted that you felt sorry for the customer as she used a cane and looked like she was over the age of twenty-one.

II. Summary conclusions of facts and violations:

The Department finds, based upon its investigation, and interviews:

1. You, Gynger S. Johnston, as an employee of Coastal Maine LLC. AMS1243 DBA Columbia Recreational Marijuana Adult Use Retail Store, did not verify the age of a customer on a government issued identification and sold a cannabis product to a minor (under 21 years of age) on August 16, 2025. This is a violation of:

- a. Title 28-B § 504 (4) (A)

(4) A person must be 21 years of age or older to make a purchase from a cannabis store. A cannabis store may not sell any item to a minor.

(A) Prior to initiating a sale in a cannabis store, an employee of the cannabis store licensee shall verify that the purchaser has a valid government-issued photographic identification card, or other acceptable photographic identification, demonstrating that the purchaser is 21 years of age or older.

- b. Title 28-B MRS § 802-A(2)(B)(4)

B. "Major license violation" means a serious violation that does not imminently jeopardize public safety. "Major license violation" is limited to:

(4) Selling cannabis plants, cannabis or cannabis products to a person under 21 years of age by failing to take all necessary steps to verify age;

c. 18-691 C.M.R. Chapter 30 §1 (8) (c) (1)

(C) Prohibited Conduct. In addition to any other prohibitions and restrictions of 28-B MRS, the rules governing the adult use cannabis program or any other applicable laws or rules, a cannabis store or nursery cultivation facility must not:

Conduct any transaction without face-to-face verification of the purchaser's identity and age of 21 or older on an approved form of government-issued identification:

d. 18-691 C.M.R. Chapter 30 §6 (4) (B) (4)

(4) Selling cannabis plants, cannabis or cannabis products to a minor, by failing to take all necessary steps to verify age;

e. 18-691 C.M.R. Chapter 30, § 1 (3) (A) (3) (d).

(d) Engage in, or permit any employee or other person to engage in, conduct on the licensed or permitted premises that is prohibited by any portion of 28-B MRS, 17-A MRS or 36 MRS; any part of the rules governing the adult use cannabis program; or any other applicable state laws and rules; or ‘

III. Summary of administrative actions taken by the Department:

Considering the violations summarized above and to ensure compliance with the MLA and Department rules, the Department is taking the following administrative actions to ensure licensee compliance with program requirements:

1. In response to Gynger S. Johnston, employee of Columbia Recreational Marijuana, selling a cannabis product to a minor and not verifying the identity and age of the minor on a government issued identification and based on the Compliance Rules for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments 18-691 Chapter 30 §6 (1) (E)(2) *The Department may revoke an individual identification card for any violation of 28-B MRS or this rule.*

a. OCP Revokes the IIC Card of Gynger S. Johnson, IIC8836.

IV. Summary of administrative appeal rights:

The Department issues this Notice of Administrative Action in accordance with its authority pursuant to 28-B MRS § 801 and the Maine APA, 5 MRS, Ch. 375. If you disagree with the Department's findings of fact or administrative actions, you may timely request a formal hearing within 30 days from the date of this Notice. Failure to timely request a formal hearing of the Department will result in this Notice of Administrative Action including Monetary Penalty becoming the FINAL ORDER of the Department. You

will not be able to petition for a review in Superior Court and it could impact your continued participation in the programs administered by the Office of Cannabis Policy.

A request for a formal hearing may be sent via e-mail to Deputy Director Vernon Malloch: Vernon.Malloch@maine.gov or via USPS mail to: Office of Cannabis Policy, 162 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Goodale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dean" being more prominent than the last name "Goodale".

Dean Goodale
Director of Compliance
Office of Cannabis Policy

Cc: Deputy Director Vernon Malloch, Office of Cannabis Policy