



**COLORADO**

**Department of Revenue**

Enforcement Division - Marijuana  
455 Sherman Street, Suite 390  
Denver, CO 80203

March 25, 2016

## **INDUSTRY-WIDE BULLETIN: 16-08**

### **RE: Publicly Available License Information**

This Industry Bulletin addresses inquiries and concerns that the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR) and Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) have received regarding a web-based licensing information database that is available to the public on the Division's website.

The names and licensing status of individuals, as well as business names, business addresses and licensing status, are all public information pursuant to state law. This is no different from any other regulated and licensed industry in Colorado.

All government agencies are subject to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) 24-72-201 states that "it is the public policy of this state that all public records shall be open for inspection by any person at reasonable times...". C.R.S. 24-72-202 (6)(a)(I) states that "Public records" means and includes all writings made, maintained, or kept by the state, any agency, institution...".

All information provided on our website is released pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. 24-72-202 and 24-72-204, neither of which exempts information such as: names and licensing status of individuals, as well as business names, business addresses and licensing status.

MED has, for some time, provided a list of licensed marijuana businesses on its website. Now, MED has implemented an additional tool on its website that allows for name searches for individuals and businesses and provides their licensing status, all of which is public information. In addition, the MED provides this information for both businesses and licensees very frequently in response to CORA requests.

The process to make this licensing information more accessible, which includes database and software development, will occur in two stages.

Stage one, which is complete and available at <https://www.colorado.gov/MEDLicenseVerification/>, allows the public to conduct "Person" searches and view occupational and owner licenses. Stage one also allows the public to access the names of individuals holding any of the available occupational license types. The public is also able to conduct "Facility" searches to view business licenses associated with Retail and Medical marijuana.



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Stage two of the process links the Associated Key licensees (individuals with an ownership interest) to their respective businesses and vice versa. This will provide the ability for the public to conduct individual Associated Key “Person” searches and view all of the businesses in which the specified Associated Key licensee(s) have an ownership interest. The public will also be able to conduct individual “Facility” searches and view the Associated Key licensee(s) which have an ownership interest in a specific business license. The target implementation date for stage two is scheduled for late April 2016.

DOR and MED have been working on this functionality since late last year because it is more efficient for sharing public information and will ultimately reduce the use of our limited resources on these types of inquiries and requests for public information under CORA.

The very same search engine is available on the Gaming and Auto Industry websites and will soon be available for Liquor/Tobacco and Racing. Liquor currently publishes the names and locations of its licensees on its website, but not in a searchable format. Additionally, other state agencies, such as the Department of Regulatory Agencies, also offer the same ability to search for licensed individuals or businesses.