

# Alabama Judge Halts Medical Cannabis Licensing

## Alabama Judge Extends Restraining Order on Medical Cannabis Business Licenses

In another setback for Alabama's medical marijuana market, Montgomery County Circuit Judge James Anderson has extended a temporary restraining order on issuing medical marijuana business licenses. The decision, reported by the Alabama Reflector, comes as part of ongoing legal battles and delays that have plagued the state's efforts to launch its medical marijuana program.

### Judge's Instructions

Judge Anderson not only extended the restraining order but also instructed the [Alabama](#) Medical Cannabis Commission to start investigative hearings for companies that were denied licenses in the previous round. These hearings are intended to address grievances and ensure transparency in the licensing process.

### Company Pushes for Restraining Order

The extension of the restraining order was pushed by Alabama Always, a medical marijuana company seeking one of the state's vertically integrated licenses. These licenses allow companies to control the entire production and distribution process, from cultivation to sales.

### Background on License Issuance

In December, Alabama regulators issued five integrated licenses to the following companies:

- Flowerwood Medical Cannabis
- Specialty Medical Products of Alabama
- Sustainable Alabama
- Trulieve AL
- Wagon Trail Med-Serv

However, the application and selection process for these licenses has sparked multiple lawsuits. The state's first two attempts to issue these licenses were blocked, and a judge halted a third round of licensing in January, citing "a serious question" about its validity.

### Delays Since Legislation

More than three years have passed since Governor Kay Ivey signed the Alabama Compassionate Act into law. This act was intended to provide medical marijuana products to patients suffering from chronic health issues. Despite the legal framework being in place, the implementation has faced continuous delays due to legal challenges and procedural issues.

## **Ongoing Legal Battles**

The current restraining order and the need for investigative hearings reflect ongoing disputes about the fairness and transparency of the licensing process. These legal battles have caused significant delays in the establishment of Alabama's medical marijuana market, frustrating both potential business operators and patients in need of medical cannabis products.

The extension of the temporary restraining order on issuing medical cannabis business licenses marks yet another delay in the launch of Alabama's medical marijuana market. With ongoing legal challenges and the need for investigative hearings, it remains uncertain when the state will finally be able to provide medical marijuana products to patients. The upcoming hearings and judicial decisions will be crucial in determining the future of Alabama's medical cannabis program.

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