

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division
Guidance Document

Title: Use of a Home Address as a Principal Place of Business or Professional Practice by an Individual Practitioner

Summary: This guidance document addresses issues pertaining to an individual practitioner's use of their home address as a principal place of business or professional practice and the home address becoming controlled premises subject to unannounced inspections and administrative warrants under existing Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations.

Activity: Using a Home Address as the Principal Place of Business or Professional Practice

To Whom It Applies: DEA-Registered Individual Practitioners

Question: Can an individual practitioner use their home address as the principal place of business or professional practice?

Answer: Yes. An individual practitioner is a physician, dentist, veterinarian, or other individual licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted, by the United States or the jurisdiction in which he/she practices, to dispense a controlled substance in the course of professional practice, but does not include a pharmacist, a pharmacy, institutional practitioner, or mid-level practitioner. *See* [21 CFR 1300.01\(b\)](#). In addition, individual practitioners must also be in compliance with applicable State, local or tribal laws.

DEA regulations require a separate registration for each principal place of business or professional practice at one general physical location where controlled substances are manufactured, distributed, imported, exported, or dispensed by a person. [21 CFR 1301.12\(a\)](#). DEA regulations do not prohibit individual practitioners from using their home address.

If an individual practitioner does choose to use their home address as a principal place of business or professional practice, the location becomes a "controlled premises" and is subject to unannounced inspections and administrative warrants under existing DEA regulations. *See* [21 CFR 1316.01–1316.13](#). An individual practitioner whose DEA-registered location is a home must comply with the established recordkeeping requirements (*see* [21 CFR 1304](#) and [1305](#)) and security requirements. *See* [21 CFR 1301.71, 1301.75 – 1301.76](#).

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law, regulations, or Department of Justice policies.

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