

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division
Guidance Document

Title: Use of a Home Address as a Principal Place of Business or Professional Practice by Individual and Mid-level Practitioners

Summary: This guidance document addresses issues pertaining to individual and mid-level practitioners' 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 and Mid-Level Practitioners

Question: Can an individual practitioner, to include a mid-level 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, or an institutional practitioner. A *mid-level practitioner* means an individual practitioner, other than a physician, dentist, veterinarian, or podiatrist, who is 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. Examples of mid-level practitioners include, but are not limited to, health care providers such as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists and physician assistants who are authorized to dispense controlled substances by the State in which they practice. See [21 CFR 1300.01\(b\)](#). In addition, individual and mid-level 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 and mid-level practitioners from using their home address.

If an individual practitioner or mid-level 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 or mid-level 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.

EO-DEA183, DEA-DC-052, November 3, 2021 (Revised #1), Original Posted July 8, 2021.