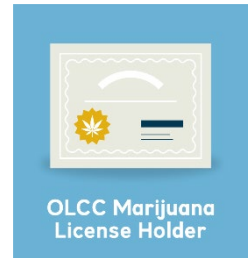


Recreational Marijuana Program

Information Bulletin

Bulletin IB2025-02

May 14, 2025



The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) is providing the following information to recreational marijuana licensees and recreational marijuana laboratory licensees.

The bulletin is part of OLCC's compliance education. It is important that you read it and understand it. If you don't understand it, please contact the OLCC for help at olcc.marijuana@olcc.oregon.gov. This bulletin does not supersede any OLCC rule. This information bulletin covers the following issue:

- Bitcoin Scams at OLCC licensed retailers

Summary

The OLCC Marijuana Compliance Division has received a report of a theft of cash from a retail licensee via fraud and Bitcoin conversion. These types of incidents have occurred in previous years, primarily at licensed retailers.

The "scam" typically occurs as follows: an on-duty employee of the license with access to cash at the registers and/or safe, will receive a text message or phone call from someone claiming to be a service provider or business associate that is owed money by the license. They may claim that if payment is not received, the retail license would be in danger of being shut down or receiving a large fine. The person convinces the employee to remove cash from the registers and/or safe at the store to complete a transaction via Bitcoin payment at a machine. There have been variations of this scam that have included fraudulent text messages from phone numbers claiming to be CEOs of the retail ownership convincing employees to complete the transfer of cash.

The OLCC encourages licensees to create awareness of these scams with their staff and to develop secure protocols about payments to outside sources. Licensees and their employees should be suspicious of any phone calls that demand employees complete a payment using Bitcoin machines or any other form of payment that is out of the ordinary for the business.

Licensees are reminded to continue to report all Burglaries, Armed Robberies or Thefts to the OLCC as required in Rule. Per ORS 845-025-1160, "...A licensee or laboratory licensee must notify the Commission in a manner prescribed by the Commission as soon as reasonably practical and in no case more than 24 hours from the theft of marijuana items or money from the licensed premises."