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Last-Minute Tips for Ohio's Medical Marijuana Processor Applicants

Processor applications for Ohio's medical marijuana industry must be submitted between December 4 and December 15, 2017. With the controversial award of Ohio's cultivators' licenses, savvy would-be processors need to avail themselves of all [resources](#) possible to land one of the 40 processor licenses to be issued – especially when submitting a \$10,000 non-refundable application fee.

Overall, it is extremely important that your application meets the minimum required scores to even be considered for a provisional license award. Those not meeting this standard will be disqualified, like some prospective [level I cultivators](#) were in their application process. Of the 109 applicants for the 12 level I cultivators' licenses, only 36 met the threshold scoring requirement to even be considered for a license. Pay careful attention to all sections **and the instructions**.

The [Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program website](#) is a wealth of knowledge, and will provide answers to many nuanced questions. Of course, most prospective processors are aware of the [Q&A](#) document detailing answers to several questions regarding the application process, but prospective licensees will also want to check out the cultivator Q&A documents ([session 1](#) and [session 2](#)) and dispensary Q&A documents ([session 1](#) and [session 2](#)) to see if any more specific guidance can be gleaned that could be helpful in the processor application.

There is a gold mine of information contained in the [scored applications](#) for the cultivators that were just awarded licenses. These applications show prospective applicants exactly what the State of Ohio was looking for when grading an application – both form and substance – which factors need to be considered when putting together a final processor application.

Remember, your operations plan is the most important element of your processor application because it will be given the most weight from a scoring perspective. Your draft responses should show exactly why your processor operations will meet Ohio's legal

requirements – meaning you should demonstrate how you intend to comply with the law – and should be written in a precise and clean manner.

Frost Brown Todd has consulted on applications in the past and can serve as a valuable last-minute resource on legal questions related to medical marijuana. For more information, please contact a member of our [Health Care Innovation Team](#). You can also visit our [Health Law Matters blog](#) for more insight into legal issues impacting the health care industry.

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