



INTERVIEW REGARDING

## Unlicensed CBD Retailers

This interview was conducted by CBD Oracle via email in April 2024 and is provided here for full transparency. Learn more about [CBD Oracle's Editorial Policy](#).

# Jennifer Bash

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Jennifer Bash is a scientific consultant with fields of expertise in forensic toxicology, organic chemistry, as well as basic scientific principles. Previously working as a Senior Analytical Forensic Toxicology Specialist at the University of Illinois Chicago's Analytical Forensic Testing Laboratory (UIC AFTL) and a Forensic Scientist in the Toxicology Section of the Illinois State Police Crime Lab; she has spent over 18 years working in forensics as a toxicologist analyzing biological samples for compounds of interest and providing testimonial assistance for cases.

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**CBD Oracle:** As in our own research, your study found that many hemp products from unlicensed sellers show an inaccurate dosage. Does this pose a risk to consumers?

**Jennifer:** In my opinion, any sort of mislabeling on a product meant to be consumed by a person poses a danger. The fact that these products also contain active drug compounds only increases the public safety risk of them.

**CBD Oracle:** Would you say it's easy for minors to buy hemp products from unlicensed retailers?

**Jennifer:** Since there have already been multiple school-aged children in IL hospitalized from the consumption of these hemp-based products it's clear that minors are easily purchasing and consuming them.



**CBD Oracle:** Your study discussed how challenging this problem is to solve. Are there any specific recommendations you would make? Should states bring in laws to require hemp sellers to be licensed?

**Jennifer:** I don't think there is a perfect solution to the problem at this point (as I indicated in my study).

In my opinion, the first thing that needs to be done is to determine how these products are classified; are they food products, are they hemp-based consumables, what sort of products are they? Once that is determined (even if it means they are classified as a type of cannabis product due to containing synthetic cannabinoids) then the regulations for that type of product should be enforced.

At this point in time they are in a grey area of the law since there isn't any classification for hemp-based consumables. The final part regarding these products is that some clearly are cannabis and that is something that regulators, legislators, and law enforcement need to address.

**CBD Oracle:** Do online retailers like Amazon present unique challenges? Or are the problems the same for unlicensed online and brick-and-mortar sellers?

**Jennifer:** Online retailers regarding any product that has different regulations from state to state will always present challenges.

However, this has been dealt with in other areas (firearms being one specific area). There do need to be different methods of enforcing the state regulations for controlled products when they are available for purchase online. ■