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April 22, 2013

**RECEIVED**

**APR 25 2013**

DEPT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

William Rubenstein, Commissioner  
CT Dept. Consumer Protection  
165 Capitol Ave., Room 126  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Regulation of CT Medical Marijuana Program

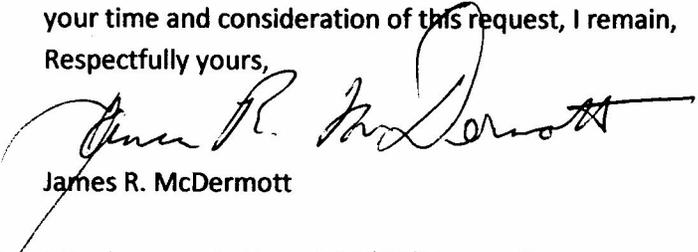
Dear Commissioner Rubenstein:

It is requested the CTDCP recommend to the CT Legislature a broader range of medical conditions which will legally allow a medical doctor's prescription of an appropriate amount of marijuana for its treatment. Several months ago I submitted a request in writing to my primary care physician to be prescribed a small amount per day of marijuana to treat my present condition of a persistence of the Lyme disease that I contacted in 2008 (see attachment). My request was not answered and a month later I telephoned my doctor to follow up my written request. I have always kept my usage of this substance on the record with both my primary care physician and my dentist. When she discussed my request with me she indicated that she judged me as a recreational user and therefore dismissed my reasoning as such. When I attempted to further advance my reason she became upset with my questioning her dismissal reminding me of the very narrow list of most debilitating medical conditions under which she could legally honor my request.

I began to use the substance in light to moderate amounts in a recreational manner in 1969. In 1981 being married with 2 children and holding down a responsible position I completely stopped usage of marijuana until 2003 at which time my children had graduated from college and I had retired from my position. At that time upon being offered the substance I accepted and gradually became and continued to be a light recreational user for approximately 5 years during which time I began to understand more clearly not that I was abusing the usage of this psychoactive substance but that it's usage could be more detrimental to my respiratory system than tobacco cigarettes. I began to cut back usage especially in the flu season. Then with the persistence of arthritic symptoms which struck very shortly after I was tested clear of the Lyme disease spirochete in my body I set my usage of the substance at a minute amount smoked daily at bed time for a restful sleep (see also in the attachment).

The purpose of this request is to legally allow a broader usage of marijuana for pain relief when prescribed in amounts appropriate to treating the condition inflicting this pain by a licensed medical professional. Thanking you for your time and consideration of this request, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

  
James R. McDermott

Attachment: Letter of 11/27/12 to primary care physician requesting temporary certification for a prescribed daily amount of marijuana use for medicinal purpose.

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November 27, 2012

Anne Timmerman, MD  
Seaport Clinic LLC  
56 Whitehall Ave.  
Mystic, CT 06355

Re: Temporary Registration Certificate to legally use marijuana for medicinal purpose

Dear Dr. Timmerman:

I am requesting you make application on my behalf for the referenced Certificate. My date of birth is June 5, 1942 Presently I routinely use and for the past several years have used a small amount of marijuana each evening because of my case of Persistent Lyme disease. This daily dosage amounts to the quantity that allows me to smoke one (1) lungs full of this controlled substance. This practice is carried out in the privacy of my home and allows a restful night's sleep. On occasion in the warmer season when I have a day of an unusual amount of physical activity this substance usage may increase to smoking three (3) to five (5) lungs full spaced throughout that day. Although I contacted Lyme disease in 2008 the condition was initially misdiagnosed and the skin rash did not respond to the prescribed antibiotic. I returned to the emergency room. It was only after several months that I was correctly diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease. However just upon the completion of the month long prescribed antibiotic treatment which cleared the rash I was stricken with a debilitating pain diagonally across the front of my left thigh. Prior to contracting Lyme Disease I engaged in extensive hiking and/or bicycling activity on an almost daily basis and thought nothing of standing in one place for a half hour. Since suddenly being stricken by the pain across my thigh on that day I rely on crutches if I have to walk more than a quarter mile and if standing in one place for more than 5 minutes my primary concern becomes finding a nearby place to sit. I can still ride a bicycle on a marginal basis. My condition does not seem to have deteriorated significantly since the disease first appeared in 2008.

I have not been able to find medical reference to Persistent Lyme Disease. However due to the initial misdiagnosis by L & M Hospital followed by a correct diagnosis made some 2 months later, the sudden onset of my present condition, and the timing of said onset occurring within two weeks of my completing the prescribed Lyme Disease antibiotic treatment; I feel that the cause of my present condition points to a persistence of the Lyme Disease rather than the need for a surgically invasive hip replacement. While awaiting a more conclusive explanation of my condition and prior to giving more consideration to the radical hip replacement I am proceeding with my request that you, as "gate keeper", file my application with State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection at [www.ct.gov/dcp/mmp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp/mmp) at your early convenience.

If you wish to discuss this request further please contact me at the above telephone number. I am also available during the first weeks in December for a visitation to your office if that is necessary. Thanking you for your time and consideration of this request, I remain,

Very truly yours,

(copy)

James R. McDermott, Jr.