



County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

July 1, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Beginning July 6, 2009, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Public Health Services (PHS) will begin implementation of the state-mandated Medical Marijuana Identification Card (MMIC) program. Persons identified under Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, with a recommendation from a licensed physician, will be able to apply for the MMIC through the Division's Office of Vital Records and Statistics in the Health Services Complex located at 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92110.

The Division's MMIC program is a required activity under Senate Bill 420 to assist law enforcement in identifying persons protected under Prop 215. The program's sole purpose is to allow qualified patients -- and their caregivers, if applicable -- to apply for and receive identification cards. The program does **not** distribute medical marijuana **nor** provide information about where to obtain the product.

San Diego County residents with a serious medical condition, determined by a medical provider licensed in California, are eligible to apply for the MMIC. In order to receive approval for a card, applicants and their caregivers must apply annually in person to our office and provide:

- a government-issued photo ID;
- proof of applicant's residency in San Diego County;
- written documentation from an attending physician, who is licensed in California, that the applicant has a serious medical condition and the medical use of marijuana is appropriate;
- payment of a \$166 non-refundable fee (\$83 for Medi-Cal patients); and
- permission to be photographed at the time of application.

Once the application is received by the County, the Vital Records and Statistics program has 35 days to:

- confirm that the physician is licensed and in good standing in California;
- confirm the written documentation from the physician;
- enter the applicant's information into the State's registry system; and
- receive and distribute the approved State-issued Medical Marijuana Identification Card to the applicant and his/her caregiver, if applicable.

As you are aware several businesses in the county are advertising the provision of identification cards for medical marijuana use to their clients. Please note that the County of San Diego, Vital Records and Statistic program is the **only** entity in San Diego County that is authorized to issue the State of California Medical Marijuana Identification Card. Please see attached for a sample of the State issued card. The card will include: a photo of the patient or caregiver; their identification number in the State registry system; the card's expiration date; and the State website address (www.calmmmp.ca.gov) utilized to verify

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if the card is valid. When an individual's ID number is entered on the State website the only information that will be accessible to law enforcement is whether the card is Valid or Not Valid. No other information pertaining to the individual will be available.

For additional information regarding statutes and regulations pertaining to medical marijuana, visit:

- the Division's Vital Records and Statistics website at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/programs/phs/mmic/index.html> or
- the State's Medical Marijuana Program website at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/mmp>.

Should you need additional information or have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Adrienne Yancey at Adrienne.Yancey@sdcounty.ca.gov or call 619-515-6597.

Respectfully,



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