

# STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY 162 STATE HOUSE STATION 19 UNION STREET FIRST FLOOR AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0162

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

KIRSTEN LC FIGUEROA COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY

JOHN HUDAK DIRECTOR

**REVISED: February 27, 2023** 

February 27, 2023

**Via USPS First Class Mail** 

Craig Gardiner

### **Subject: Notice of Revocation of Registry Identification Card(s)**

The Maine Department of Administrative & Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy (Department) is responsible for the administration and oversight of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program (MMCP). Protection for authorized conduct requires compliance with the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and program rules. Pursuant to its authority under 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C, §2430-F, the Department revokes the following Registry Identification Card(s): **17420.** Such revocations are effective three (3) calendar days after the date of this notice.

## I. Justification for revocation:

The Department's decision to revoke your Registry Identification Card(s) is based on your violation of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act. More specifically, the Department's MMCP field investigation staff have provided the Department with sufficient evidence to demonstrate the following statutory and regulatory violations:

- On February 21, 2022, at approx. 1:36pm Maine Sheriffs' Association Agent Tracy Frost entered Curate Cannabis a Medical Cannabis Retail Store located at 11 Conant Rd. Turner, Me. in attempt to purchase some cannabis product. Frost reported he did not observe any signage stating a medical patient card was required.
- 2. Upon entering the store Frost spoke with a male employee who he described as tall with black colored hair. Frost requested to purchase two cannabis pre-rolls and paid \$11.35. Frost stated he was never asked to produce a Maine Medical Cannabis Patient Card or an out of state valid medical patient card.
- 3. After completing the transaction Frost returned to his vehicle and photographed both the cannabis pre-rolls and the exterior of the store. Frost then placed the pre-rolls into an evidence bag and turned the pre-rolls along with the surveillance video and his report over to OCP.
- 4. On March 20, 2022, MSA Agent Frost returned to Curate Cannabis attempt to purchase additional cannabis product, but the store was closed.
- 5. On March 30, 2022, MSA Agent Christian Behr entered Curate Cannabis located at 11 Conant Rd. Turner, Me in attempt to purchase cannabis product without a Maine Medical Patient Card. Behr

- reported there were two individuals working behind the sales counter at that time. The employees did request a medical patient card from Behr. He left the store without making a purchase.
- 6. On September 29, 2022, MSA Agent Frost returned to Curate Cannabis located at 11 Conant Rd attempting to purchase cannabis product without a medical patient card. Frost did not make a purchase as the employee requested a medical patient card from him
- 7. On December 8, 2022, OCP Field Investigator Chris Giesecke and I, Field Investigator Rick Beaumont conducted a caregiver inspection for Darren Villani (CGR 27551) the owner of Curate Cannabis
- 8. During the inspection we spoke with Darren Villani regarding the purchase that was made at his store on February 21, 2022, in which his employee sold two cannabis pre-rolls without requesting a Maine Medical Patient Card or Medical Patient card from another state from the buyer. (MSA Agent Frost) I showed Darren Villani a screen shot captured from Frost's video of his employee conducting the sale. Villani identified that employee as Craig Gardner. (CGE 13259)
- 9. The employee from Curate Cannabis in the video captured by MSA Agent Frost on February 21, 2022, appears to match the Maine Driver's License photo of Craig J. Gardner D/O/B (Me Lic # ) which was submitted as part of his Maine Medical Cannabis program assistant application.

# II. For these reasons, your eligibility to participate in the MMCP has been revoked:

1. One incident of failing to verify qualified patient/failure to observe patient card prior to cannabis sale, with the result of furnishing cannabis to a person not authorized to possess cannabis for medical purposes, in violation of Title 22 MRS §2430-F(2).

Please immediately return your Registry Identification Card to:

Department of Administrative & Financial Services Office of Cannabis Policy Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program 162 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0162

# III. Registration Revocation and Right to Request an Administrative Hearing:

Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. §2430-F, the Department may suspend or revoke a registry identification card for violation of Chapter 558-C and the rules adopted by the Department. A person who has had authorization for conduct under Chapter 558-C revoked due to failure to comply with Chapter 558-C and rules adopted by the Department may request an administrative hearing. If you would like to request an administrative hearing, please notify the Department in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of the revocation effective date at the address information provided above. A request for an administrative hearing should be sent to Vernon Malloch, Deputy Director of Operations, by email at <a href="Vernon.Malloch@maine.gov">Vernon.Malloch@maine.gov</a> or USPS at 162 State House Station, 19 Union Street, Augusta, Maine 04333-0062. If the Department does not receive a hearing request in accordance with the policy, the revocation becomes final.

Sincerely,
Michael W. Field

Director of Compliance