



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

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

ERIK GUNDERSEN
DIRECTOR

To: Current MMMP Participants
From: Director Erik Gundersen, Office of Cannabis Policy
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022
Subject: Guidance on Implementation of a Single Registry Identification Card

Background

This guidance is provided by the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) to medical cannabis program registrants to explain how OCP will implement the issuance of single registry identification cards to caregiver assistants and dispensary assistants. 22 MRSA §2425-A (5-A) became law on April 26, 2022, pursuant to *An Act to Update and Clarify the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act*, P.L. 2021, ch. 662. Section 5-A states: ***Issuance of single registry identification card to caregiver or dispensary assistant.*** *The department shall issue a single registry identification card pursuant to this section authorizing a person to be an assistant of one or more registered caregivers or registered dispensaries and who satisfies all applicable requirements under this section for issuance of a registry identification card. A single registry identification card issued to a person in accordance with this subsection authorizes the person to assist one or more registered caregivers or registered dispensaries in accordance with this chapter and may not associate the person with or restrict the person to assisting a specific caregiver or dispensary.*

Guidance

OCP has nearly completed work to allow full implementation of an online application for a single registry identification card which we will refer to as a Registry Identification Card (RIC). An RIC will allow an individual to be employed by any number of registered caregivers or registered dispensaries.

In order to simplify and streamline the issuance of RICs, OCP will recognize any current and valid registered caregiver assistant or registered dispensary assistant card as a valid RIC effective immediately. This means that the holder of either of these cards may work for any registered caregiver or registered dispensary regardless of the name of the caregiver or dispensary printed on the assistant card.

Assistant cards will remain active until they expire. Individuals with multiple assistant cards expiring on different dates may use the card with the latest expiration date. There is no need for individuals holding current caregiver assistant or dispensary assistant

cards to apply for an RIC until their current card expires. Registered caregiver assistants and dispensary assistants will need to apply for an RIC at least 30 days prior to the expiration of their current cards in order to avoid a lapse in registration.

Registered caregivers must obtain an RIC if planning to work for other registered caregivers or registered dispensaries.

For pending applications already received, or in route to our office, OCP will review if the assistant has a current caregiver assistant or dispensary assistant registration card that may act as an RIC. If it is determined the new application is not needed, it will be returned with a copy of this guidance document. If the applicant does not have a current caregiver assistant or dispensary assistant registration card, OCP will process the new application, which will work as an RIC until expiration. Once the online application process becomes available, further guidance will be issued from OCP.

Caregivers and dispensaries that are holding the cards of the assistants, should give those physical cards to the assistant to keep in their possession, now that the card authorizes them to work for any number of caregivers or dispensaries.

Caregiver assistants that are under 21 and working for a family member who is a registered caregiver will continue to have a separate assistant registry card with the prefix CGX and may only work for that caregiver family member listed on the assistant registry card.

Conclusion

Moving to issuance of a single RIC will reduce the administrative burden of caregivers, dispensaries, and individuals employed in Maine's Medical Use of Marijuana Program. OCP continues to work on the development of an online application that we hope will simplify the process.

In an effort to implement the RIC program more smoothly, OCP will recognize current caregiver assistant and dispensary assistant registration cards as valid for use as an RIC effective immediately.

Finally, OCP historically has not collected emails or communicated with caregiver or dispensary assistants directly. Given these changes directly impact caregiver and dispensary assistants and OCP does not have a way to communicate directly with this group, we ask that all caregivers and dispensary officers receiving this communication share with their assistants for their awareness.