



State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-1
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Medical Marijuana Program Bulletin Number 2019-2
Prohibited Business Relationships with Medical Practitioners

This Bulletin is issued by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (“DBR”) Medical Marijuana Program (“Program”) to provide guidance regarding prohibited business relationships between medical marijuana licensees and medical marijuana practitioners in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws § 21-28.6-12 and the Rules and Regulations Related to the Medical Marijuana Program Administered by the Department of Business Regulation 230-RICR-80-5-1 (the “Regulations”).

The Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act, Rhode Island General Laws § 21-28.6-1 *et seq.* (the “Act”), requires complete financial separation between providers of patient’s written certifications and regulated entities that distribute medical marijuana to said patients.

Rhode Island General Laws § 21-28.6-12(d)(5)(iv) found within subsection § 21-28.6-12(d) of the Act entitled “*Expiration or termination of compassion center*”, provides as follows:


(5)A compassion center's registry identification card shall be subject to revocation if the compassion center:

...

(iv) Employs or enters into a business relationship with a medical practitioner who provides written certification of a qualifying patient's medical condition.

In accordance with this Section, compassion center license holders are prohibited from entering into a business relationship with any medical practitioner who provides written certifications for qualifying patients in connection with Rhode Island’s Medical Marijuana Program. Prohibited business relationships include employment, fee splitting, referral or similar fees, cost sharing, subsidization or reimbursement and any other similar financial relationships with a practitioner and/or any affiliated persons or entities who provide or otherwise facilitate patient certifications to Rhode Island residents, whether directly or indirectly, including through another medical marijuana program licensee.

Pursuant to Section 1.4 of the Regulations, the Department may review and audit the books and records of licensees to ascertain compliance with the Act and Regulations. Any compassion center licensee having a prohibited business relationship in violation of the Act may be subject to enforcement proceedings including revocation of licensure by the Department.


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