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## BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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In the Matter of:

Participation of Licensee as a Shareholder, Officer or Managing Member of Any Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facility, Dispensary or other Establishment or Entity Authorized Under NRS 453A.

No. 14-1 Adv. Op.

FILED

JUN 17 2014

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

## **ADVISORY OPINION OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS JUNE 2014**

All licensees of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) are hereby advised that participating as a shareholder, officer or managing member of any medical marijuana cultivation facility, dispensary or other establishment or entity authorized under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 453A is currently a violation of federal law under the Controlled Substances Act, 28 U.S.C. 801 et seq., because marijuana: 1) is classified as a Schedule I drug; 2) has not been fully evaluated and approved by the Food and Drug Administration for medicinal purposes, i.e., contraindications, dosages, potency, quantity and side effects; 3) lacks accepted safety standards for use; and 4) has a high potential for abuse.

Board licensees are further advised that licensees will not be investigated by the Board based solely on their participation as a shareholder, officer or managing member of any medical marijuana cultivation facility, dispensary or other establishment or entity authorized under NRS Chapter 453A. However, if the Board receives a complaint alleging misconduct or other possible violations regarding a licensee's participation as a shareholder, officer or managing member of any medical marijuana cultivation facility; dispensary or other establishment or entity authorized under NRS Chapter 453A, the Board is obligated by law to investigate the allegations contained in the Complaint. Additionally, if a licensee is convicted of violating the Controlled Substances Act. or any other federal or state law regarding the possession, distribution or use of any controlled

substance or any dangerous drug as defined in Chapter 454 of the NRS, the Board is obligated by law to investigate the matter (NRS 630.301(11)(f)). Thus, licensees are further advised, whether they participate or not as a shareholder, officer or managing member of any medical marijuana cultivation facility, dispensary or other establishment or entity authorized under NRS Chapter 453A, that they may be subject to potential disciplinary action by the Board for the following violations: 1) directly or indirectly receiving from any person, corporation or other business organization any fee, commission, rebate or other form of compensation which is intended or tends to influence the physician's objective evaluation or treatment of a patient – NRS 630.305(1)(a); 2) referring a patient to a health facility or commercial establishment in which the licensee has a financial interest – NRS 630.305(1)(c); 3) failing to disclose to a patient any financial or other conflict of interest – NRS 630.305(1)(g); 4) administering, dispensing or prescribing any controlled substance, or any dangerous drug to or for himself/herself or others except as authorized by law – NRS 630.306(3); and 5) willful failure to perform a statutory or other legal obligation imposed upon a licensed physician – NRS 630.3065(3).

Board licensees act at their own legal peril as a shareholder, officer or managing member of any medical marijuana cultivation facility, dispensary or other establishment or entity authorized under NRS Chapter 453A. Accordingly, all licensees of the Board are encouraged to consult with their own legal counsel to explore all possible legal and/or criminal implications of such actions and/or relationships.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Michael J. Fischer, M.D., President