

Arkansas Takes a Stand: First-Ever Revocation of a Medical Cannabis Dispensary License

The Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABC) has made history by revoking a medical cannabis dispensary license for the first time. The decision comes in response to alleged violations by Green Springs Medical Marijuana Dispensary in Hot Springs.

Allegations of Expired Product Sales

According to the ABC, Green Springs Medical Marijuana Dispensary was found to have sold over 1,800 expired products. This revelation emerged following undercover investigations conducted by ABC agents. Despite receiving a verbal warning earlier, the dispensary continued to stock and sell expired items, leading to the enforcement action.

Response from Green Springs

Green Springs owner, Dragan Vicentic, expressed intentions to appeal the decision. Vicentic contests the severity of the penalty, emphasizing his efforts to explain the situation and seek a reduction in fines. However, ABC's Director opted for license revocation, a move Vicentic deemed extreme.

Allegations of Multiple Violations

In addition to the expired product sales, the ABC highlighted numerous violations against Green Springs. These include failure to maintain sanitary processing areas, inadequate inventory information, inaccurate employee records, insufficient video surveillance, and inadequate security measures.

Continuation of Business Pending Appeal

Despite the license revocation, Green Springs will continue operating until the appeal process concludes. The dispensary, which opened its doors in May 2019 as the second in Arkansas, awaits a final decision on its fate.

Regulatory Perspective

Trent Minner, head of the finance department's regulatory division, stressed the gravity of compliance within the medical marijuana industry. He emphasized that operating within the bounds of state law is not only a requirement but a privilege, highlighting the duty of the ABC to enforce regulations consistently.

Reflection on Arkansas's Medical Cannabis Program

Arkansas's medical cannabis program has witnessed substantial growth since its inception five years ago. With dispensaries accumulating over \$1.1 billion in sales, the industry's economic significance is undeniable. However, this recent enforcement action underscores the importance of regulatory compliance and adherence to standards set by governing bodies like the ABC.

In conclusion, the revocation of Green Springs Medical Marijuana Dispensary's license marks a significant milestone in Arkansas's evolving cannabis landscape. It serves as a reminder to all industry stakeholders of the critical importance of adhering to regulatory requirements and maintaining the integrity of the state's medical cannabis program.

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