

# COLDWATER TOWNSHIP

## Branch County

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### TO THE RESIDENTS OF COLDWATER TOWNSHIP

RE: Public Act 281 of 2016 – Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act (effective 12/20/16), MMFLA

The current Michigan medical marijuana law is far from complete. The state must first appoint a five member authority to write the rules and regulations regarding the new law. This has not been done. The operating framework for licensing, fees or the formula that is going to be used has not been established.

Until the authority has been appointed by the state, it's hard to speculate how the MMFLA would operate in any municipality. This makes for a real learning curve. Until the state takes action, we need to learn as much about the new law as possible. Currently, the need to research any potential benefits should be the goal, as well as, what affect it might have on our local township.

When medical marihuana was approved by the state voters in 2008, it was overwhelmingly supported across Michigan. The current legislators, after 8 more years of sub-committee, committee hearings and full house testimonies, overwhelmingly passed the new law by a 95-12 margin. Medical marijuana is legal in Michigan, but interpretations of the law and law enforcement actions against dispensaries and caregivers have varied across the state.

Changes in the state law, PA 281, focus on regulating and licensing of retail commercial establishments. The new law has no control over the previous medical marijuana law passed in 2008. Caregivers are still allowed to operate in their homes or any other places as the law allows. The state keeps these grow operation and caregiver information as well as licensed medical marijuana card holders private from the public because it involves medical information between the doctor and patient.

The state is required to have its licensing process in place by December of this year. No one can apply for a license until December 15, 2017. At that time, anyone applying for a license at the state level, in Lansing, must have a copy of the local jurisdictions ordinance showing that the local municipality "OPTED IN" allowing any of the five retail commercial medical marihuana facilities which are: Growers, Processors, Retail Stores, Secure Transportation and Safety Compliance businesses. The ordinance must also state how many of each facilities, the type of facilities and where we will allow them to be located. Until then, we need to gather as much information as possible to be able to make an informed decision in the best interest of our residents.

A decision on the MMFLA by the Coldwater Township board is extremely pre-mature at this time. Again, the rules and regulations regarding the MMFLA have not been set by the state. Nothing has been presented to the township board for action regarding the MMFLA. Nothing has been voted on by the township board regarding the MMFLA. The township board, to this point, has appointed a committee to gather as much information on the new law as is available so the board can make an informed decision in the best interest of its residents.

Thank you,

Don Rogers, Supervisor  
Coldwater Township