

"MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION REGULATION"

Section 9.31.010 - Purpose and intent.

It is the purpose and intent of this Chapter to immediately regulate medical marijuana in a manner that is consistent with State law and which is necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and businesses within the unincorporated territory of the County of Mendocino by balancing: (1) the needs of medical patients and their caregivers for enhanced access to medical marijuana; (2) the needs of neighbors and communities to be protected from public safety and nuisance impacts; and (3) the need to limit harmful environmental impacts that are sometimes associated with marijuana cultivation. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to: (1) allow persons to engage in conduct that endangers others or causes a public nuisance as defined herein; (2) allow the use or diversion of marijuana for nonmedical purposes; or (3) allow any activity relating to the cultivation, distribution or consumption of marijuana that is otherwise illegal under California State law.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to exempt the cultivation of medical marijuana, as defined herein, from any and all applicable local and state construction, grading, electrical, plumbing, land use, water rights, waste water discharge, streambed alteration, or any other environmental, building or land use standards or permitting requirements.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, as allowing cultivation of medical marijuana **in the Inland Zoning District of Mendocino County without a permit as required by section 10A.17.030(A) or** by any qualified patient or primary caregiver in excess of the exemptions provided by section 10A.17.030(B) of this Code.

Section 9.31.020 - Confidential Nature of Medical Marijuana Information Legislative Intent.

To the fullest extent authorized by State and Federal law, all use information received by and/or generated by the operation of this Chapter or prior or other iterations of cannabis cultivation ordinances of the County has always been intended to be treated and held by the County as confidential information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information provided to the county may be released as required by law, judicial order, or subpoena, and could be used in criminal prosecution.

Section 9.31.030 - Findings.

- (T) On September 11, 2015, the State enacted the Medical **CannabisMarijuana** Regulation and Safety Act (**MC**MRSA), which took effect January 1, 2016, and which mandated a comprehensive state licensure and regulatory framework for cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, testing, and dispensing of medical marijuana on a commercial basis, but implementing regulations have yet to be written and state licenses will not be available until 2018.
- (U) Previous landmark marijuana legislation, including the Compassionate Use Act and the Medical Marijuana Program Act, have precipitated a "green rush" with individuals moving to Mendocino County to grow marijuana; with some seeking to capitalize on ambiguities in the law, while others lack an awareness of community and environmental consciousness.
- (V) Since the adoption of **MC**MRSA numerous sources, including law enforcement, elected officials, county administrators, neighbors and marijuana cultivators have reported numerous inquiries from individuals and entities, both from within and without Mendocino County, who seek to expand their current cultivation operations, or start new ones.