

Personal History

My name is Mark Imhof. I am a Senior Software Engineer who has worked in the field of Time and Attendance and Labor Scheduling for over 30 years. Current clients of Empower Software Solutions, my employer, include national retail operations, including Home Depot and Kroger. I have a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Biology and Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I moved to Oregon in 1988 and with my wife of 40 years, and have raised a family of 3 children. I enjoy gardening, outdoor activities, and have coached youth programs for over 20 years. Currently I am assisting my daughter who is a coach at Lakeridge High School.

Medical Situation

I have serious medical issues relating to knee and shoulder injuries, seizures, kidney stones, arthritis, and sleep apnea. I have sought standard medical treatment for all of these conditions. I have had prescription drugs prescribed to me for all of these ailments including several major narcotics. Most of these treatments have failed. The drugs to some degree or another have caused severe side effects including nausea, constipation, allergic reactions, and general malaise. Recently I had a total knee replacement. My surgeon who has performed over 2000 of these replacements, along with my family doctor of 30 years, are comfortable with me using medical marijuana to moderate and control the pain. Since becoming an OMMP patient 3 years ago, I have been able to eliminate all prescription drugs and have not had a single seizure. Medical marijuana controls my pain and allows me to sleep better. I want to make a strong point in that I use my medical marijuana prescription only within the confines of my house and only at night right before I go to sleep. Because medical marijuana works so well for my conditions, I do not need to take my medicine during the day.

Problems with the Grower Model

I am 61 years old and have never been arrested or charged with any type of crime. Finding a grower is difficult for someone like me. Like everyone else, I treasure the privacy of my own home and the use of my medicine is a private and domestic matter. Bringing a grower to my home to provide medicine means that I have to associate with someone that I do not know very well. I am also totally dependent upon the grower's word and legal status. Growers provide the entire prescription in large amounts. I am not comfortable having large amounts of medicine (a pound or more) sitting in my home. It is an open invitation to home invasion. As an example, no one would want a year's supply of a prescription narcotic such as Oxycodone in their home.

Why the Dispensary Model Works

The dispensary model is a safe and better alternative to the grower model for several reasons.

- Using a dispensary is no different than going to a pharmacy and picking up a prescription drug.
- I am allowed a selection of medicine and products and services that can be tailor made for my symptoms.
- I know that my medicine is tested for chemical composition, potency, and whether it contains pesticides or herbicides. I know exactly what I am getting, such as with a prescription obtained from a pharmacy. It is safer and puts my mind at ease versus having to deal with an unknown.
- I only need to purchase a 2 week supply which means that I have only what I am using at any point in time at my home.