VARIANCE

Pursuant to the authority granted to me in the provisions of 68 Illinois Administrative Code 1290.610, I hereby grant a Variance on behalf of all licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensaries to the provisions of 68 Illinois Administrative Code 1290.410(c)(5), which states in part: “during hours of operation, store and dispense all cannabis from the restricted access area....”

The Department issued a Variance on March 16, 2020 allowing Medical Cannabis Dispensaries to dispense medical cannabis outside of the limited access area. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the CDC’s recommendation regarding in-person contact, the Department permitted Medical Cannabis Dispensaries to provide service for medical cannabis patients, OAPP participants, and designated caregivers outside the limited access area until March 30, 2020. Any Medical Cannabis Dispensary offering pre-order, direct-to-car service, or sales outside the limited access area must have a written procedure on how to ensure Dispensary Agents still verify two forms of identification before providing the medical cannabis to a patient. Medical Cannabis Dispensaries were permitted to temporarily modify their policies and procedures regarding dispensing to accommodate this Variance.

The Department is extending the original Variance issued on March 16, 2020 until April 30, 2020. Notwithstanding the aforementioned Rule, this Variance is in no way intended to waive or modify any statute, rule, or regulation concerning the dispensing of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries. All currently licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensaries shall be subject to compliance with all additional rules and regulations contained in the Act and in the rules promulgated thereto or their successor.

I have determined that the provision from which this Variance is granted is not statutorily mandated; no party will be injured by the granting of this Variance; and the rules from which this Variance is granted would, in this particular case, be unreasonable.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of the State of Illinois
Deborah Hagan, SECRETARY, by

3/30/2020
DATE

CECILIA ABUNDIS
ACTING DIRECTOR

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