

# Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program Petition to Add a Qualifying Medical Condition

## Making your petition

- Any person may petition the Minnesota Department of Health ("the department" or "MDH") to add a qualifying medical condition to those listed in subdivision 14 of Minnesota Statutes section 152.22.

**Petitions are accepted only between June 1 and July 31, each year.  
Petitions received outside of these dates will not be reviewed.**

**Petitions must be sent by certified U.S. mail to:**

Minnesota Department of Health  
Office of Medical Cannabis  
P.O. Box 64882  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

- You must mail the original copy of the petition with an original signature.
- Complete each section of this petition and attach all supporting documents. Clearly indicate which section of the petition an attachment is for.
- Each petition is limited to one proposed qualifying medical condition.
- If a petition does not meet the standards for submission, it will be dismissed without being considered.
- If the petition is accepted for consideration, MDH will send the petition documents to the Medical Cannabis Review Panel ("Review Panel"). MDH staff will also provide information to the Review Panel about the proposed qualifying condition, its prevalence, and the effectiveness of current treatments.

## Petition review process

- The Review Panel meets at least once a year to review all eligible petitions.
- MDH will post notice of the public hearing on its medical cannabis website.
- After the public meeting and by November 1, the Review Panel will provide the Commissioner of Health its written report of findings.
- The Commissioner will approve or deny the petition by December 1 of the year the petition is accepted for consideration.

- You may withdraw the petition before the Review Panel's first public meeting of the year by submitting a written statement to the Department stating that you wish to withdraw it.

Section A: Petitioner's Information			
Name (First, Middle, Last): [REDACTED]			
Home Address (including Apartment or Suite #): [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: Mn	Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Telephone Number: [REDACTED]		Email Address: [REDACTED]	

Section B: Medical Condition You Are Requesting Be Added
<p>Please specify the name and provide a brief description of the proposed qualifying medical condition. Be as precise as possible in identifying the condition. <b>Optional:</b> Include diagnostic code(s), citing the associated ICD-9 or ICD-10 code(s), if you know them. <i>Attach additional pages as needed.</i></p>
<p>Autism Spectrum Disorder 299.0 (F 84.0). neurodevelopmental disorder.</p> <p>In [REDACTED]'s case, he suffers from intellectual disabilities, OCD, potential catatonia, generalized anxiety, parkinsonism, elopement, underweight and vitamin D deficiency. The most pressing problem is being underweight and under nourished and the use of high risk medications, all of which may be addressed with the use of medical cannabis.</p>

**Section C: Symptoms of the Proposed Medical Condition and/or Its Treatment**

Describe the extent to which the proposed qualifying medical condition or the treatments cause suffering and impair a person's daily life. *Attach additional pages if needed.*

Our son [REDACTED] has been plagued by obsessive thoughts, high anxiety, compulsions, depression, and problems with social interaction his entire life. As a consequence, he only has a 4th grade level education, can only do simple tasks and must be under 24 hour care at the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. He currently has a very low appetite and weighs around 116 pounds.

[REDACTED] was once an active boy who could throw a basketball, run fast, make video speeches and maintain his weight by eating good nutritious meals. He was on no medications until he developed behavioral problems in 9th grade. A few months after taking Seroquil, he went into a catatonic state which left him hospitalized. He never regained his former self completely and remains soft spoken and slow in movement. Medical marijuana would have been a safer and better solution to his problems. At this time, although damage has been done to his system, we feel medical cannabis would still be beneficial to him in many ways. His appetite would increase, and he would experience less anxiety resulting in less behavioral problems, obsessions and a better overall quality of life.

**Section D. Availability of conventional medical therapies**

Describe conventional medical therapies available and the degree to which they ease the suffering caused by the proposed qualifying medical condition or its treatment. *Attach additional pages if needed.*

[REDACTED] is currently with a very good staff at the [REDACTED]. He also works during the week at [REDACTED], however their reports show he is slowing down and losing weight. It is questionable if he has ever benefitted from traditional psychological medications. If so the benefits have not outweighed the drawbacks since he has developed a tendency towards catatonia, tremors, self injurious behavior requiring restraint and elopement which he did not have problems with before the medications began.

Current medications attached.

**Section E: Anticipated benefits from Medical Cannabis**

Describe the anticipated benefits from the medical use of cannabis specific to the proposed qualifying medical condition. *Attach additional pages if needed.*

Medical cannabis should have been the first offering for [REDACTED]'s condition since it is a milder, non toxic and non addictive natural substance. In his current underweight condition, the medications he is taking have taken a toll on his physical and emotional well being and may prove to be damaging or life threatening in the future. We would like to see medical cannabis introduced to him on a small scale eventually leading to a final elimination of all other medications if possible.

His annual physical (attached) states he is on high risk medication at this time. He has a history of receiving a wide range of medications that have been more or less a guessing game through the years. One of the medications put [REDACTED] into a catatonic state, and others have led him to wander dangerously into the street. Medical cannabis does not cause these types of problems, but offers anxiety relief and a much needed appetite.

**Section F (optional): Scientific Evidence of Support for Medical Cannabis Treatment**

It will strengthen your petition to include evidence generally accepted by the medical community and other experts supporting the use of medical cannabis to alleviate suffering caused by the proposed medical disease or its treatment. This includes but is not limited to full text, peer-reviewed published journals or other completed medical studies. Please attach complete copies of any article or reference, not abstracts.

**I have attached relevant articles.** *(check box if you have attached scientific articles or studies)*

**Section G (optional): Letters in Support of Adding the Medical Condition**

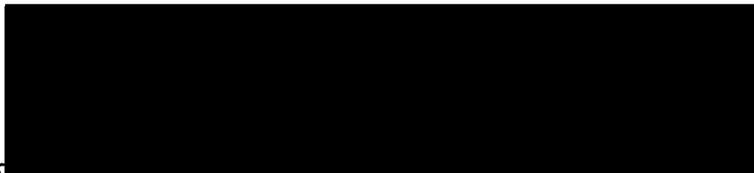
Attach letters of support for the use of medical cannabis from persons knowledgeable about the proposed qualifying medical condition, such as a licensed health care professional.

**I have attached letters of support.** *(check box if you have attached letters of support)*

**Section H: Acknowledgement and Signature**

*Please Note: Any individually identifiable health information relating to any past, present, or future health condition or health care contained in this Petition is classified as a health record under Minnesota Statutes §144.291, and is not subject to public disclosure.*

**I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**



6-23-2016

SIGNATURE ... PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS...

DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)

*To obtain this information in a different format, call:  
(651) 201-5598 in the Metro area and (844) 879-3381 in the Non-metro.*

## **Sect. F**

**"It seems to me if one is going to need to use drugs, one ought to consider a relatively safe drug, like marijuana," said Dr. Bernard Rimland, Ph.D., formerly of the Autism Research Institute. "The reports we are seeing from parents indicate that medical marijuana often works when no other treatments, drug or non-drug, have helped."**

## Mothers Story of Medical Cannabis for Autism

Although there are many studies and research reports indicating that

medical cannabis can successfully treat autism, I have only included

this one short story which parallels the story of our own son in some ways, the most important of which both individuals have faced negative side effects of medication and dangerous weight loss.

**Mom: Medical marijuana saved son's life**

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif. (KABC) -- Medical marijuana used to treat a

10-year-old boy with autism may sound shocking. But one Orange

County mother says she exhausted all other options.

Before using medical marijuana, doctors described Joey as "hostile, destructive, a danger to himself and others."

His mother says he's now a different boy.

Four months ago, doctors told Joey's mom that he was going to die. She strongly believes medical marijuana saved her son's life.

"Had I had not gone this route, my son would not be here," said Joey's mom.

Joey was diagnosed with autism when he was 16-months-old. His symptoms are severe.

"His behavior was just completely off the charts," said Joey's mom. "It was taking its toll on our entire family."

She and a team of doctors tried everything, including 13 different medications and therapy. At one point, Joey was taking six medications at once. But the prescription drugs took a toll on Joey's body, causing liver damage, minor seizures, insomnia and drastic weight loss.

Joey was diagnosed with malnutrition and anorexia, and his weight

## Mothers Story of Medical Cannabis for Autism

dropped to 46 pounds.

"I have a 10-year-old that was 46 pounds," said Joey's mom. "He was very weak. You could see the bones in his chest. And at that point I realized if I did not take him off these hardcore prescribed medications, my son was going to die."

In desperation, Joey's mom finally turned to medical marijuana. She gives it to him in specially prepared brownies and cookies.

She says the changes have been dramatic.

Joey's doctor said she noticed a difference within weeks.

"She looked at Joey and said, 'For the first time Joey has cheeks,'" Joey's mom recalls. "Now he eats everything. Everything! Calamari & he eats sushi. My son is finally getting the nutrients that he's been missing for the last seven years.

But it's not just his appetite that has changed. Joey is calmer and less edgy.

"He's happy, he feels alive. And to hear him make sounds, I mean, we've never heard him make sounds," said Joey's mom.

Joey's repetitive behaviors have also diminished.

"This to me sounds like a very reasonable use of medical marijuana," said Dr. Drew Pinsky, a specialist in addiction.

"The idea that somehow cannabis is a 'bad' drug and there are 'good' drugs, that's a huge mistake. There are drugs that have liabilities and used properly can really help people. This is a clear situation where it's helping a kid. Why shouldn't they use it?" adds Dr. Drew.

He warns that any such treatment must be carefully monitored by Joey's doctors, but potential addiction shouldn't be an issue.

"I mean there may be withdrawal symptoms, there may be anxiety and

# Sect. F

Mothers Story of Medical Cannabis for Autism  
other mood disturbances down the road from using cannabis, but

you're not going to use, it's not going to convert this child who has no  
history of addiction into an addict," said Dr. Drew.

Dr. Drew and Joey's mom, both agree that more research is needed.

But for now Joey's mom believes the marijuana saved her son.

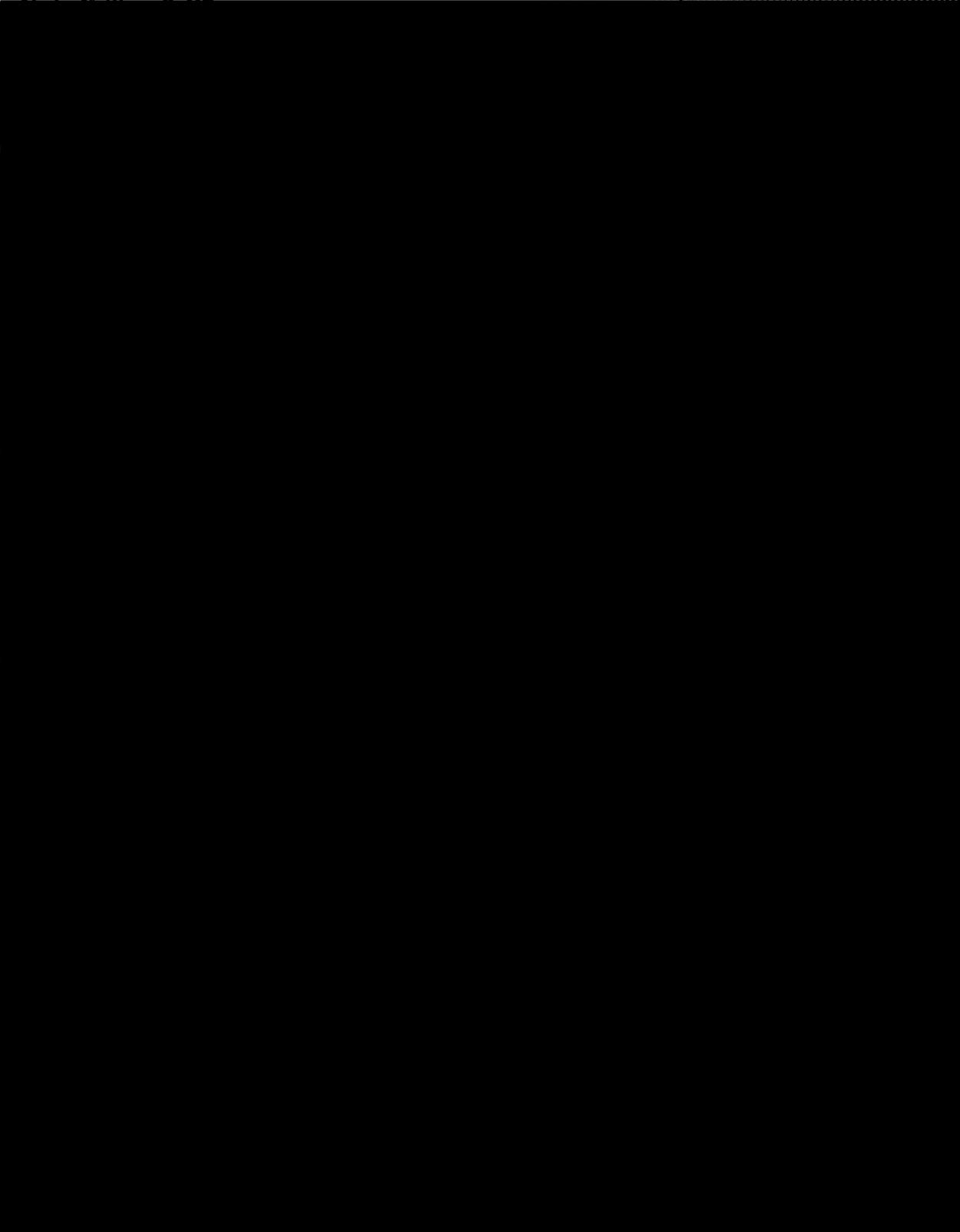
"People who have seen Joey ... Joey's a completely different child,"  
she said.

Joey's mom did not want her name used in fear of a backlash, but  
agreed to tell their story in hopes of helping other parents with special  
needs children.

# Sec. B

Annual Physical

More Details >



# Seet. D

## Quarterly Nursing Assessment

Current Diet: Regular+Supplement

Weight: 116 lbs

IBW Range: 120-135 lbs

### Current Medications:

Clomipramine 200mg at bedtime  
Divalproex sodium 375mg twice daily  
Lorazepam 2mg three times daily  
Mirtazipine 30mg daily  
Biotene moisturizing mouth spray 2 sprays four times daily

### Reason:

Behavior  
Mood/Behavior  
Anxiety  
Depression  
Dry Mouth

← most current med list

### Ongoing Health Concerns:

Mental Health

Weight

### Treatment Approach:

Continue with current medications, behavior modification and quarterly med reviews.  
Encourage healthy food choices and expanding his palate. A supplement of Carnation Instant Breakfast is being given with Dinner.

New Health Concerns: No new health concerns.

Plans, recommendations, referrals: None at this time.

### Exam:

#### Respiratory:

x Lung sounds clear to auscultation, respirations unlabored.  
Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

#### GI:

x Abdomen soft, non-tender, BS +.  
x Continent Incontinent  
Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Neurologic:

x Orientation level at baseline  
x Gait stable  
Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

#### General Skin:

x Skin intact, warm, dry, color normal  
Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cardiac:

x RRR, no murmur, rub or gallop.  
Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

#### GU:

x No rashes, sores or skin abnormalities.  
Genitalia normal.  
x Continent Incontinent  
Other (describe) Occasional Nocturesis

#### HEENT:

x Eyes, ears, nares clear.  
Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Extremities:

x No lower extremity edema.  
x Peripheral pulses palpable.  
Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: [redacted] has been in good health this past quarter. He did well with the Sinemet taper which is now discontinued

Referral to MD/NP needed? Not at this time

Completed by: [redacted] RN