

# Medical marijuana law, in practice, is still hazy

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The Michigan Medical Marihuana Act needs some more tweaking, it seems. We've been getting news tips about raids around Southeast Michigan. The raids are happening during the lag time between when a patient or marijuana supplier (known as a caregiver) apply for state-issued cards that confirm their status to legally supply or use medical marijuana, and the time that the cards are actually received.

The latest was the raid of Richard "Jim" Brace's Hazel Park home. Brace, a 66-year-old retiree and medical marijuana patient, has a dedicated caregiver, or marijuana supplier.

Brace was putting his 7-year-old granddaughter to bed, according to his Southfield-based attorney Michael Komorn, when police knocked on his door. He says officers then busted the door in. We have not seen the police report to verify that. According to Hazel Park police, the raid was conducted by the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team.

Officers searched his house and found his marijuana. According to Komorn, they took his application folder, which contained copies of his medical records and documentation. Komorn said Brace had applied for his patient status on Jan. 9, and the application fee check was cashed on Jan. 12.

Though he said he wasn't formally arrested, Brace said he was handcuffed. Komorn said that no charges are pending and the police have told his client that the case is closed.

It's not exactly a happy ending, though, says Komorn. It's a red flag pointing to the problem of lag time between medical marijuana applications and patients' receipt of their verification cards from the state.

By law, 20 days after receipt of an application and check to the state, a copy of the application and check receipt serve as proof of the patient's status, Komorn said.

Exactly 20 days after the check was cashed, Brace was raided, said his lawyer.