

Trio denied use of medicinal marijuana while out on bond

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A request by three people — arrested during an August medical marijuana drug raid — to be allowed to smoke medical marijuana while on bond was denied in Waterford's 51st District Court Wednesday.

William Joseph Teichman, Candace Jean Teichman, and Brian Vaughn — medical marijuana patients — had been instructed as part of their bond not to use medical marijuana. The Teichmans own Everybody's Cafe in Waterford and Vaughn had worked with them.

The three were among 16 people arrested during the Aug. 25 drug sweep conducted by a county narcotics team. They were charged in August with counts related to marijuana delivery and manufacture.

The defendants' attorney Michael Komorn told Judge Richard Kuhn Jr. that his clients had medical conditions and that they had been prescribed prescription pain medication.

Komorn said Candace Teichman's pain medications had undesired side effects and that medical marijuana had provided "tremendous benefits" for pain she incurred after a serious car accident.

"Medical marijuana allowed her to function," he said.

He said William Teichman also had serious medical conditions.

"To deprive them (of medical marijuana) was unfair without a medical determination," said Komorn. "With the state medical marijuana card comes privileges and protections."

Assistant Prosecutor Beth Hand told Kuhn she opposed any change to the bond, arguing the court was in its right to set limits and that possessing marijuana is a violation of federal law.

Kuhn reviewed the Teichmans' legal skirmishes, including the fact Candace Teichman had just graduated from

Kuhn's sobriety court in August and that Vaughn was on probation for a driving charge. William Teichman, Kuhn noted, had a case pending involving a driving charge.

In denying a change to the defendants' bonds, Kuhn said, "There are glaring holes (in the Medical Marijuana Act) and the Legislature needs to step up and put in some guidelines."

Jeffrey Perlman, attorney for the Teichmans, said afterward, "Judge Kuhn is fair and trying to be as impartial as he can be. Anyone who has had a family member suffer from the pain of cancer and other diseases understands the importance of medical marijuana."

William Teichman said Everybody's Cafe closed this week and the restaurant on Airport Road is now up for sale.

All defendants charged in Waterford's 51st District Court in connection with the Aug. 25 medical marijuana raid are due back in court today THURS for preliminary exam conferences.