

Attorney General Opinion 7270, released May 10, 2013:

The Attorney General was asked several questions concerning the application of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA), Initiated Law 1 of 2008, MCL 333.26421 *et seq.*, in child-protective proceedings brought under the Michigan Juvenile Code (Juvenile Code), MCL 712A.1 *et seq.*

Based on the questions asked of him, the Attorney general opined on 4 key issues:

1. A properly registered patient or primary caregiver, who engages in the “medical use” of marihuana “in accordance with” the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA), Initiated Law 1 of 2008, MCL 333.26421 *et seq.*, may invoke the protections provided in sections 4(a) and (b) of the Act in a child-protective proceeding under the Michigan Juvenile Code, MCL 712A.1 *et seq.* MCL 333.26424(a) and (b). But the protections are subject to the exception in section 4(c) of the MMMA for behavior that creates an unreasonable danger to a minor that can be clearly articulated and substantiated. MCL 333.26424(c).
2. Whether a person’s actions associated with the medical use of marihuana present an “unreasonable danger” to a child under section 4(c) of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, Initiated Law 1 of 2008, MCL 333.26424(c), is a fact-specific inquiry dependent upon the circumstances of each case. Any assertion that a person’s behavior associated with the medical use of marihuana presents an unreasonable danger to a child must be clearly expressed and supported by evidence.
3. To invoke the protections provided for in sections 4(a) and (b) of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, Initiated Law 1 of 2008, MCL 333.26424(a) and (b), in a child-protective proceeding under the Michigan Juvenile Code, MCL 712A.1 *et seq.*, a patient or primary caregiver must have been issued and possess a valid registry identification card. The affirmative defense provided for in section 8(a) of the MMMA only applies in a criminal prosecution, and thus is not available in a child-protective proceeding under the Juvenile Code. MCL 333.26424(a).
4. The Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, Initiated Law 1 of 2008, MCL 333.26421 *et seq.*, does not permit a court in a child-protective proceeding under the Michigan Juvenile Code, MCL 712A.1 *et seq.*, to independently determine whether a person is a qualifying patient. But the court may review evidence to determine whether a person’s conduct related to marihuana is for the purpose of treating or alleviating the person’s debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the condition. MCL 333.26424(d)(2). If the person’s use or possession of marihuana is not for that purpose, and thus not “in accordance with” 42 the MMMA, the person is not entitled to invoke the protections offered in section 4(a) in a child-protective proceeding. MCL 333.26424(a), MCL 333.26427(a).