

## Obtaining Medical Records

Dr. Elting requires that you bring medical records from your primary health care professional (doctor, chiropractor, etc) documenting the condition for which you want to use or are using medical marijuana. If the problem is chronic then you must provide proof that the you are still followed at least yearly for this condition. Please note, Medical Bills, Pharmacy receipts, Prescription bottles, legal documents and disability documents may be helpful supporting information, but they are **not** medical records. Ideally what is needed are **Progress notes (the notes the doctor writes when you are at your appointment)**, lab reports and x-ray reports.

When requesting information from your doctor's office please be specific about which medical condition you are requesting records about and for what time period. It is important to include the most recent notes. You do not need to explain why you need the records: they are legally your property. While progress notes are ideal, an alternative, is for the treating health care provider to write a letter which includes your diagnosis, its duration and treatments you have tried or are still using, and finally that you are under his/her care.

The office may have you sign a medical release form. If they don't have one, you can write a simple note stating:

Please release to me, (your name here) a copy of my medical records including progress notes, lab and x-ray reports and treatments regarding my condition: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Signature)

The federal government passed a law in 2004 that requires all physicians or health care providers, to provide a copy of the medical records to a patient after they have made a formal request. This reproduction of the records must occur within 15 days of having received the properly completed requisition form and any fees that may be required for the copying.