

## **USSC: Put that in your pipe and smoke it**

### **Medical-marijuana users may face prosecution from federal authorities following ruling**

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**By Lenny Castaneda**  
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Weed, pot, chronic, cannabis - whatever you choose to call marijuana, the U.S. Supreme Court does not want anyone smoking it.

Since the enactment of Proposition 215, passed in November 1996, and Senate Bill No. 420, passed in September 2003, marijuana has been a hotly debated issue state and nation wide. However, medical-marijuana users took a blow from the U.S. Supreme Court June 6 in a ruling that now affords the federal government the right to prosecute patients whose prescription-pot remedies are legal under state law, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Despite the ruling, organizations all across the country are helping patients receive referrals for the drug.

A new organization called MediCann is available for people as an alternative medical clinic, according to its Web site, [www.medicann.com](http://www.medicann.com).

MediCann is devoted to providing a place where patients in need of medical marijuana can receive a cost-effective, expert evaluation from a licensed medical professional. For those who qualify, a physician's recommendation is granted allowing legal use of marijuana, according to its Web site.

International economics senior Robert Johnson said he's felt improvements after he was recently prescribed medicinal marijuana for Attention Deficit Disorder. It was just a phone call away, he said.

"I dialed the 1-800 number and scheduled an appointment within minutes," Johnson said. "I gathered all my medical documents, such as reports of prior injuries, X-rays and previously prescribed drugs.

"When I went to the office, the doctor didn't even look me in the eyes. She swiftly signed a prescription that allowed me to legally use medical marijuana.

"I was in and out of the doctor's office within 10 minutes."

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Under state law, Proposition 215 permits use of "marijuana for treatment of cancer, anorexia, AIDS, chronic pain, plasticity, glaucoma, arthritis, migraine or any other illness for which marijuana provides relief."

Patients who are granted a prescription can designate a caregiver, who is also granted rights to purchase marijuana, but can't use it. Caregivers are only allowed to carry and transport, according to the Web site.

A prescription-pot user cannot ingest medicinal marijuana while on a school bus, in a motor vehicle or boat that is being operated, or in other places in which smoking is prohibited by law. Unless the medical use occurs within a residence, marijuana may not be ingested on or within 1,000 feet of school grounds, recreation centers or youth centers, according to SB420, section 11362.79.

Qualifying patients can apply for a medical-marijuana ID card issued through the Cannabis Club. The ID card offers legal protection, creates statistical data about how many patients need medical marijuana and offers affordable marijuana distribution and access to all patients.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, one of nine judges who made the ruling, contends that medical marijuana is not as good of an idea as some proponents wish to believe.

According to the Associated Press, Breyer said "when we see medical-marijuana in California, we won't know what it is. Everybody'll say, 'Mine is medical.' Certificates will circulate on the black market. We face a mess."