



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Agriculture and Food

CRAIG W. BUTTARS
Commissioner

KELLY PEHRSON
Deputy Commissioner

Statement on The Forest (f.k.a. ‘The Cannabist’) Medical Cannabis Pharmacy Relocation

In October 2023, the Medical Cannabis Division of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food received a change request from the medical cannabis pharmacy The Cannabist (now ‘The Forest’) to relocate from Springville to Murray.

The department was concerned with this request due to its potential impact on patients’ access to their medicine.

We held a public meeting to allow patients and other stakeholders to express their concerns. Following that meeting, it was clear that the pharmacy relocation would negatively impact patients in the area and could set a precedent for future moves impacting patients all over Utah.

Unfortunately, the statutory language in Utah Code Chapter 4-41a at the time of the request did not give the department authority to deny the relocation. After some revisions to the change request, the department ultimately approved the relocation.

To minimize future impact on patients, the department requested that changes be made to the statute to prevent pharmacies from moving outside of their regions. These changes went into effect in May 2024. Under the authority of Utah Code Section 4-41a-1005, the department also intends to issue another pharmacy license in Region 5, which includes Utah County, to provide patients in the area access to a broader variety of products.

UDAF Medical Cannabis Division