

Ronnie Johnson, West Fargo District 16

Autism, Age 11

Family worked to get autism on debilitating conditions list in 2019

Original-strength pediatric THC tincture provided therapeutic relief of Ronnie's autistic anxiety/self-injury/insomnia

Received original debilitating condition certification (card criteria) from physician employed by a health-care organization that publicly granted provider freedom to do so; Physician quit taking new pediatric cannabis patients after administration discovered her involvement

Family discovered that original pediatric tincture would soon be sold out; Other pediatric THC tincture contained 56% as much medicine, for same price (\$200/30 gram bottle)

Family alerted ND Division of Medical Marijuana of impending pediatric tincture shortage in Sept. 2019

Division recommended contacting growers

Desperate correspondence begging for more original-strength pediatric tincture sent to Pure Dakota (Bismarck) manufacturing facility

No response from Pure Dakota

Desperate correspondence begging for pediatric tincture sent to Grassroots Cannabis (Fargo manufacturing facility)

Grassroots representative reached by phone, listened to mother's plea



When asked for management contact information, Grassroots representative told mother to “Google it!” and hung up

January 2020 meeting with Grassroots Cannabis resulted in promise of a pediatric tincture by July 2020

Original tincture went out of stock

Price tag for a month's supply of available, low THC pediatric tincture for Ronnie rose to \$1,000

Family could no longer afford medical cannabis as Ronnie's primary medication

Ronnie forced to go on risperidone, an antipsychotic with serious side effect risks

Ronnie hospitalized after grand mal seizure in May 2020

Essentia Health confiscated Ronnie's cannabis tincture after initially agreeing to his regular bedtime dose

Unmedicated insomnia sent Ronnie running and screaming through hospital halls

Essentia refused to return cannabis tincture unless Ronnie exited hospital

Cannabis tincture returned to Ronnie's designated caregiver after Ronnie (who had suffered first grand mal seizure just hours before) discharged into rainy parking lot at 3 am

-Grassroots failed to produce promised pediatric tincture by July 2020

Alexa Johnson, mother 701.793.7450