

1 Why you are receiving forms JV-228 and JV-229

You have been prescribed three or more psychotropic medications at the same time for 90 days or longer. The Medical Board of California (“board”) will look into the care your doctor provided to you and may need more information to determine if the doctor properly prescribed medication for you.

California law requires the board to review medical doctors prescribing psychotropic medication to youth in foster care. As part of this review, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provide prescribing and other data to the board under a unique number assigned to you, but with no personal identifying information. This means that the board does not know your name or other personal information about you, and does not know how to contact you.

After reviewing the data provided by DHCS and CDSS, a medical expert may decide that prescribing practices by one or more doctors involved in your care should be examined more closely. To look into the quality of medical care you were provided, the board may ask you for your name and contact information, so board staff can contact you to get further details about your care and get your permission to review your medical records. You do not need to respond to contacts from the board, even if you agreed to the release of your information. The decision to respond to the board is up to you.

The board encourages you to authorize this review, because it is important to ensure doctors are appropriately prescribing medications to youth in foster care.

2 Information that may be made known

The medical board may also request that you give your permission to DHCS and CDSS to connect your name to the prescribing and other data that was provided to the board under a unique number. This means the medical board will know:

- ▮ Your name and that you are or were in foster care;
- ▮ Your contact information;
- ▮ What psychotropic medications you were prescribed;

- ▮ How much of each medication you were prescribed;
- ▮ The start and stop dates for each medication;
- ▮ Who prescribed them to you; and
- ▮ Your age and weight at the time you were prescribed these medications.

This information may help the board evaluate the quality of care you received from your doctors.

You may also allow the board to see your medical records if the board needs them to decide whether the doctor broke the law or prescribed too much psychotropic medication to you.

You do not have to release any information to the board, and you may choose not to share your information with the board. Further, if you do not release your information, there will be no impact on or changes to the services, treatment, or care you receive from the government.

3 Confidentiality of information

Please be aware that all of the state agencies involved are committed to protecting your privacy. The medical board is required by law to keep all information used in their investigations confidential.

4 Withdrawal of authorization

You can change your mind and withdraw your authorization to give information to the medical board at any time. You can do this by signing, or having your attorney sign, *Withdrawal of Release of Information to Medical Board of California* (form JV-229) and your attorney will file it with the court.