

Dr Mann: I've got a few questions, I'm having

DEA receptionist: Regarding what?

Dr Mann: I'm having a little problem here, ya know. I've got a practice here in Russellville. I'm being told by a lot of my patients, that they are being approached by the police and everybody, that all their charges and any criminal background is expunged if they say that they've been having sex with me for drugs. They have to come up with that particular line.

DEA receptionist: Ok hold on, let me see if I can find someone to talk to you, just a second please.

Dr Mann: Sure ma'am.

DEA receptionist: And you said this was Dr Mann?

Dr Mann: That's right ma'am, is there a Mr. Chris Anderson there? That works there?

DEA receptionist: Uh, I don't know, just a moment.

(on hold)

(new male voice): DEA can I help you?

Dr Mann: Hi this is Dr Mann, who am I speaking to sir?

(new male voice): Bill Bryant.

Dr Mann: Hi, uh

Bill Bryant: Dr Mann I think I've talked to you before

Dr Mann: I know sir, I know, my problems don't stop. It's a state of frustration that I'm calling in. Is there a Mr Chris Anderson that works there?

Bill Bryant: Uh he's one of the task force officers assigned to one of the offices in the state, he doesn't work here in Little Rock.

Dr Mann: Ok, you know, my thing is, this thing has been going on for two and a half years now and I don't know what to do. Is there anything I can do? I will be glad to do it. I mean, these guys, 5-6 names keep popping up every time, patients of mine, you know, who are in jail get offered, in the process of being in prison or whatever, get offered deals that all you got to say is that you've been having sex with Dr Mann for drugs, and all your charges will be given federal immunity. All we want is him.

We are having federal charges against him. But you've got to say it's sex for drugs, and that's all we want to hear from you.

Bill Bryant: Well, I've talked to you before about this, I thought you were saying, you had a tape, or something, and then you called the ATF, or the Russellville Task force or something?

Dr Mann: I called the ATF, ok, and the ATF amazingly says the officer there is not one of their officers, and they want the person, the female that was on the tape to come and sign a statement for them there. And if she was lying, they were going to prosecute her, and only after she signed a statement there, would they do something about it. Now, you know, these guys are freaked out, I mean, you know, half these guys are convicts, felons, or whatever. You know, I'm ready, fine, if they can find any person without a record to come and say I did something that was inappropriate, I'd say fine I did it and do what you got after that. But I mean, every person they bring is a felon, with a record, with a deal that all you've got to say is that you've had sex with this guy, but it has to be for drugs, you know. It can't be just plain sex, it has to be sex for drugs. And you have been granted federal immunity, the term comes up, federal immunity, the term comes up every time.

Bill Bryant: Do you have any examples of any DEA personell doing this or saying this?

Dr Mann: Well last time I turned this into the ATF, the ATF came and gave this tape to the "boys" over here. Ya know, I mean the question is, if somebody can be unbiased about this, I can give you so much evidence that it's mind-boggling. I mean, I'm not a paranoid kind of guy.

Bill Bryant: My question to you, Dr Mann, is, is any DEA employee doing this?

Dr Mann: There are a bunch of them doing this sir, there's a bunch..

Bill Bryant: No I'm talking about the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, not local drug task force

Dr Mann: It's not the federal, its local, every one of them is local, they keep saying federal every time, but I've checked, and they are all local drug enforcement. And I don't know what to do, I mean, I've tried to go to the FBI with this, and the FBI tells me it's fully legal for them to do that and they are within their rights to you know, authorize somebody to steal a car if it is in the name of justice and in their case, for them to pick up felons to say stuff like that, they are in their rights, and they have...it's ok for them to do it.

Bill Bryant: I mean, it's common practice, unfortunately when you're in law enforcement you don't deal with all the Popes and the Chaplains, or nothing like that, but it's up to law enforcement to corroborate the statement. So if they say like,

Bill Bryant is a bank robber, I can't go arrest Bill Bryant to corroborate and have evidence, that "hey Bill Bryant is a bank robber". But I guess what I direct to you, is DEA, I don't know if we have any jurisdiction for investigating complaints, I mean that's more of the FBI, or the loc..I mean like if it's drug task force or the police department there doing it, you need to talk to that chief or that supervisor of that department. DEA doesn't have the supervision over all narcotics related matters or personnel. I mean you have to go to that individual department, does that make sense?

Dr Mann: It's just that every time it turns around, somebody's been told federal charges are being brought agai....in fact...again if you can keep this confidential sir, a patient comes to me, and her lawyer is telling her, "this guy's going down, just say what they want you to say. Get all your records expunged, and move on from there". I mean this is an attorney, telling a patient this. He's got his own handwriting on this piece of paper, because, you know, that's something he gave her. Saying that, cooperate with the guy, he gave his name there. And, you know, she said, it's a damn good deal, what else am I gonna say? They're gonna take off every record, I won't have to serve time in jail, whatever they want me to say, what do I have to lose.

Bill Bryant: Well, you told me the people telling you this have records right?

Dr Mann: Every one of them has a record. I mean none of them is without a record.

Bill Bryant: That was my point I mean before..I'm just speaking for DEA..before any information we get, before we use it in court or anything, we have to corroborate it, so I don't know if these people are feeding you lies, coming back to you, getting you all excited. I can just tell you how the DEA works, that if we receive any information before we present it as evidence in court, we have to corroborate it

Dr Mann: Well, to tell you very frankly, sir, again, please, off the record, I'm being blackmailed by patients.

Bill Bryant: Uh..how? What do you mean by blackmailed?

Dr Mann: Well, it's like they want me to say this (a false statement), and because I'm not saying this, I'm being so tired, I'm being so stressed, so I need this (pain medicine). Now what am I supposed to do with this information?

Bill Bryant: Well, doctor, don't you have an oath not to fill a prescription if you think someone is trying to....

Dr Mann: Well, if somebody's stressed out, because of pressure that a federal agency is putting on them, ok, that's a stressful situation. If somebody wants medication for that stressful situation, it's my job to help with that...somewhere down, deep down, the question is..is this real, or is this made up, or what's going on here?

Bill Bryant: I mean, I don't know if I can answer that one for you, cause I mean, I'm not a doctor. You know, you might check with the medical board and see what they say, if you want to run this by them. Have you talked to the medical board?

Dr Mann: Well I talked to the medical board about it and they just said "You've got yourself a local political issue". See the thing is, these guys sent a guy to my office to copy, 50, 60, 70 records, their charge at that time was overprescribing and not following the guidelines laid by the State Board. I follow every single guideline by the Board. I mean, they sent this guy in here from Little Rock, Mr Morris. He came and copied charts, charts, charts. I hadn't even been called by the state board. Everything was—I talked to Mr Ray Jouett about this—everything was, you know, above board there was no problem. And I asked the guy, I said, you know, it's a pleasure seeing you sir, I expected guys with badges and guns here, because from what the community has been telling me, that "you're gonna go down, they are gonna bust you, they are gonna arrest you, they're gonna throw you in jail and stuff". So he told me, he laughed and said, you know, the guys with badges and guns actually sent me, yes, I am here because of them. So I mean, if this is a witch-hunt situation, if I need to move from here, I mean, if someone can even tell me that, if someone can even tell me what I need to do, I'll do it. I even offered this guy, you know, I said, what do these guys want me to do? Ok, I'm for the underdog. A lot of guys come to me who are ex convicts, who are in pain, who need medicine, and I give them medicine, you know, I don't distinguish between the kinda guy, I don't distinguish the character, it's not my judgement on these people. I treat whoever comes to me. And that is pretty much what is the price I'm paying for, is having "scumball" patients. Now, you know, that's not my job to determine whether they are "scumballs" or not, I'm just gonna treat them if I can.

Bill Bryant: I mean, as a doctor you take an oath to treat everybody, so as long as you are not doing anything wrong, Dr Mann, I wouldn't worry about anything. You're hearing rumors and stuff that are getting you all spun up, I mean if you're obeying every law and doing, living up to your oath as a doctor, you should have no worries.

Dr Mann: I am, you know, I mean it's so funny, I get guys every day who get convicted for selling cocaine then they are coming to me wanting to buy guns from me. I ask them why, they tell me the cops have sent me, and if I buy a gun from you, my charges are dropped.

Bill Bryant: Well, all I can tell ya is that the DEA is not doing that. I have the responsibility to supervise all DEA personell in the state of Arkansas, and uh, you need to, if you know what agency it is, you need to talk to those supervisors and tell them.

Dr Mann: Is it legal that if I'm a drunk driver, if I, if I, have multiple convictions from drunk driving and all that, can I tell you somebody is selling cocaine and get off my charges? Can those charges be dropped?

Bill Bryant: An issue like that is left up to the local prosecutor. I mean, it would explain prosecutor hey this guy has information about this or that, but the prosecutor will decide whether or not to file.

Dr Mann: Because, you know, I can

Bill Bryant: A law enforcement officer doesn't have that authority.

Dr Mann: I called David Gibbons, who is the Prosecu...

Bill Bryant: Prosecutor in Russellville, I know him

Dr Mann: I called this guy about this tape that somebody dropped off here, about somebody paying this woman \$250 to sleep with me. Shortly after I called his office, she got a massive threat. So when I called her back I said, listen, I'm gonna take this thing to the ATF. And she was just freaking out at the tape. I'm not gonna testify, I don't even know how you got this tape. I...I...Leave me out of this thing. I mean she was just frantic and almost losing it, and, I mean, what am I supposed to do? I can't even get...

Bill Bryant: Well bottom line is that if you obey the law and do what you are supposed to do as a doctor, you should have no worries. You know, if you listen to all these other things on the street it will drive you crazy. If you know that you're doing the right thing, you shouldn't have anything to worry about.

Dr Mann: Well see you know, my dad's a lawyer, and I know the way the law works. If 25 people say that, you know, the ring you were wearing today was stolen from Dr Mann in front of 20 of us guys standing, then that ring becomes mine, I mean, you know. So, it's just a matter of----And that's what they are doing, they are trying to gather 20 names for everybody to say, yeah he's been having sex for drugs.

Bill Bryant: All I can tell you is as far as the DEA is concerned. Is before we use any evidence in federal court we have to corroborate that evidence we have to prove that it's true. And that's the way the DEA works, and that's the way that most law enforcements should work.

Dr Mann: Well, I appreciate that sir, it's just that I'm in a situation that's embarrassing. I've got kids, if I didn't have kids, I wouldn't care. Play the game, lost in the end, who cares. I mean you know, out on the streets, or in jail, I really don't care. I've passed that stage in my life where, I mean, I've worked in the jail long enough to—I've spent more time working in a jail as a doctor, than most people have served as convicts. You know, that part doesn't bother me, sh—lock me up, go ahead, make your day, but I've got kids, that's the only thing I'm worried about, is my kids, not me. And I don't know, I'm trying to get some answers, I don't even know who to talk to. I try to talk to the FBI, and the FBI says that's legal.

Bill Bryant: Well, if you know what agency it is, you need to go to the supervisor of that agency. So if it's the Russellville Police Department, go talk to the chief of Russellville. Or if it's the ATF, go talk to the head of the ATF.

Dr Mann: It's not the ATF, it's not the Russellville Police, it's the Pope County Drug Task Force.

Bill Bryant: Well, go talk to the boss of that.

Dr Mann: Well, how do you know who that person is? Cause I get Larry Johnson, Casto, Goodman, Anderson

Bill Bryant: I mean, well, overall, either the Sheriff, the Sheriff, or I think they have a Board it's over, but the Sheriff or the prosecutor, David Gibbons.

Dr Mann: ok I'll...

Bill Bryant: You know Jay Winters? Talk to the Sheriff

Dr Mann: Jay Winters, from what I heard, doesn't know anything about it. But let me talk to Jay Winters and see what he's got to say. And let me try that route

Bill Bryant: Alright sir

Dr Mann: I really appreciate that sir

Bill Bryant: Alright take care

Dr Mann: Thanks a lot