June 14, 2002

Medical Board Suspends Two Doctors' Licenses

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners has suspended the licenses of Armando Sanchez G, M.D., of Houston, and Charles Don Sartor, M.D., of Leander. The temporary suspension hearings took place under the Board's authority to suspend physicians' licenses when it determines there is a threat to the public welfare. The suspensions are effective immediately.

Dr. Sanchez G, a Houston physician specializing in occupational medicine, pled nolo contendere to first-degree felony charges of solicitation of capital murder in the 209th District Court in Harris County. The intended victim of the murder was one of Dr. Sanchez G's patients. The board's disciplinary panel determined that his continued practice of medicine would constitute a continuing threat to the public welfare.

Dr. Sartor violated conditions of a previous order by consuming alcohol. He also failed to provide medical records to his former patients. The Board's disciplinary panel found that the evidence constituted a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The length of a temporary suspension order is indefinite but it remains in effect until the board takes further action.

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners is the state agency that regulates physicians, providing consumer protection through licensure, investigation and disciplinary action. The Board, under President Lee S. Anderson, M.D., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for physicians who fail to meet the required standards of professional competency and behavior. The agency is seeking new legislation to expand current statutory authority to better fulfill its mission to ensure that medical care is delivered by competent physicians.

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