

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CONTACT:**

Nancy Achin Audesse  
(617) 654-9867

**STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

**BOSTON:** At its meeting today, the State Board of Registration in took action against the medical licenses of Richard C. Bird, Jr., M.D., Joseph B. Cocozzella, M.D., Stephen R. Wiener, M.D., Timothy M. Rivinus, M.D., Daniel Luczkow, M.D., Joseph B. Sullivan, M.D., Kenneth A. Santiago, M.D., Ronald B. White, M.D. and Robert M. Namiot, M.D.

The Board found that Dr. Richard C. Bird committed conduct that undermines public confidence in the practice of medicine by engaging in inappropriate behavior with a patient by accepting a loan from the patient. The Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Bird's license to practice medicine, and immediately stayed the suspension upon Dr. Bird's entry into a Probation Agreement. The Probation Agreement requires Dr. Bird to have a chaperone at all times with all patients and requires that his practice be monitored until September 2010. Dr. Bird is a 1989 graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. He specializes in internal medicine and occupational medicine, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1992.

In the matter of Dr. Cocozzella, the Board found that he practiced medicine while his ability to do so was impaired and that he dispensed controlled substances to himself and his family for whom he did not maintain medical records. The Board reprimanded Dr. Cocozzella and indefinitely suspended his license to practice medicine. The suspension was stayed upon his entry into a Probation Agreement requiring him to be monitored by the Board until 2011, submission to random bodily fluid screens, and that he be under the care and monitoring of a health care professional who shall report to the Board. He is a 1970 graduate of St. Louis University School of Medicine and is board certified in internal Medicine. Dr. Cocozzella was first licensed to practice in Massachusetts in 1973.

On May 27, 2005, Dr. Stephen R. Wiener failed to renew his license to practice medicine, but continued to practice until June 11, 2005, including prescribing controlled substances and backdating prescriptions. His license was revived on August 3, 2005. Today the Board reprimanded Dr. Wiener and fined him \$5,000. Dr. Wiener is a 1975 graduate of Duke University School of Medicine. He is a board certified psychiatrist, and was licensed to practice in Massachusetts in 1978.

The Board found that Dr. Timothy Rivinus was disciplined by the Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline in 2005 for improper billing. He was reprimanded and paid an administrative fee of \$500. Today the Massachusetts Board reprimanded Dr. Rivinus and fined him \$1,000. Dr. Rivinus is a 1970 graduate of the Temple University School of Medicine. He is board certified in psychiatry and

neurology, and in adolescent and child psychiatry. He was first licensed to practice in Massachusetts in 1973.

Dr. Daniel Luczkow was reprimanded and fined \$500 for failing to disclose on his initial license application two charges of operating under the influence. He was found not guilty of one charge and the other was dismissed. Dr. Luczkow is a 1993 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is board certified in emergency medicine and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 2004.

The Board found that Dr. Joseph B. Sullivan failed to provide medical records to patients or authorized physicians in a timely manner, failed to respond to the Board in a timely manner and failed to notify patients regarding the closure of his practice in a timely manner. His license lapsed in September 2005 and was revived in April 2006. Today the Board reprimanded Dr. Sullivan. Dr. Sullivan is a 1988 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He specializes in internal medicine and has been licensed in Massachusetts since 1990.

Dr. Kenneth A. Santiago was reprimanded and entered into a Probation Agreement requiring him to be monitored until 2011. While a cardiology Fellow, Dr. Santiago faced allegations of workplace sexual harassment. The Board also required him to complete sexual harassment awareness training. Dr. Santiago graduated from Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico in 1999. He is board certified in internal medicine and was first licensed in Massachusetts in 2001.

In two final matters, the Board accepted from Drs. Robert M. Namiot and Ronald B. White the resignations of their licenses to practice medicine. Resignation permanently removes a physician from practice. Dr. Namiot is a 1960 graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. He is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1962. Dr. White graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1978. He is board certified in internal medicine and neurology, and was first licensed to practice in Massachusetts in 1980.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine licenses more than 30,000 physicians, osteopaths and acupuncturists. The Board was created in 1894 to protect the public health and safety by setting standards for the practice of medicine and ensuring that doctors who practice in the Commonwealth are appropriately qualified and competent. The Board investigates complaints, holds hearings and determines sanctions. More information is available at [www.massmedboard.org](http://www.massmedboard.org).

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Copies of orders issued by the Board are available by calling the Public Information Coordinator at (617) 654-9831.

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