

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION

BOSTON: At its meeting yesterday the state Board of Registration in Medicine took disciplinary action against the medical licenses of Thomas Ho, M.D., Joseph Fahey, M.D., Ronald Coulombe, M.D. and Camilla Parham, M.D.

The Board retroactively revoked the license of Dr. Thomas Ho, finding that he fell asleep during a surgical procedure and that he admitted to inhaling an anesthetic gas while on lunch break at work. Dr. Ho was in a residency program in anesthesiology, and on a rotation at Children's Hospital at the time. His limited license expired in June 2006. He took a voluntary leave of absence in January 2006. Dr. Ho may not apply for a new medical license until he can demonstrate at least 15 months of continuous sobriety, and compliance with a chemical dependency monitoring contract. Dr. Ho is a 2003 graduate of the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine, and was initially granted a limited license in Massachusetts in 2004.

The Board found that Dr. Joseph Fahey, when questioned by Worcester police in October 2005, admitted that he was present at an address known for illegal drug activity intending to purchase cocaine. He was not arrested. Dr. Fahey entered into a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice with the Board in November 2005. During the Board's investigation, Dr. Fahey admitted to prior use of marijuana and cocaine. Today the Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Fahey's license to practice medicine. The suspension was immediately stayed upon Dr. Fahey's entry into a Probation Agreement that provides for monitoring of Dr. Fahey until 2010, and compliance with a chemical dependency monitoring contract. Dr. Fahey is a 1984 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is a board certified pediatrician and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1987.

In another matter, the Board found that Dr. Ronald Coulombe was arrested by Taunton police in 2001 for open and gross lewdness, a charge which was dismissed after he satisfied terms of probation. In 2002, Dr. Coulombe was charged with two counts of open and gross lewdness in Fall River, to which he admitted to sufficient facts for a finding of guilty. Those charges were dismissed after Dr. Coulombe satisfied terms and conditions of probation. Today the Board indefinitely

suspended Dr. Coulombe's right to renew his license to practice medicine. He may petition for a stay of suspension after documenting six months of compliance with a behavioral monitoring contract, and a Probation Agreement. Dr. Coulombe is a 1979 graduate of the Autonomous University of Guadalajara. He is a board certified urologist, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1981.

The Board found that Dr. Camilla Parham behaved inappropriately with a patient at a party. The Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Parham's license to practice medicine, and immediately stayed the suspension upon Dr. Parham's entry into a Probation Agreement. The Probation Agreement requires Dr. Parham to remain in compliance with a behavioral health monitoring contract, and that she take additional continuing medical education credits in the area of physician/patient boundaries. Dr. Parham is a 1983 graduate of George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Science. She is board certified in Family Practice, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1990.

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.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Copies of orders issued by the Board are available at (617) 654-9867, and in .pdf form on the Board's website at <http://www.massmedboard.org/public/discipline.shtm>.

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