

**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 Alfredo I. Gonzalez, M.D., Robert Beckhardt, M.D. and Richard N. Finegold, M.D.

The Board found that Dr. Alfredo I. Gonzalez was arrested on September 12, 2007 when seven marijuana plants were found in his home. He entered a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice with the Board on September 14, 2007. Dr. Gonzalez later pled guilty without admitting to facts, the case was continued without a finding, and later dismissed. Yesterday the Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Gonzalez's license. The suspension will be stayed upon documentation of 12 months of abstinence from substance use. Dr. Gonzalez is a 1996 graduate of the University of Texas Medical School. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1997.

Dr. Robert Beckhardt was reprimanded and fined \$2,500. The Board found that Dr. Beckhardt inappropriately prescribed controlled substances to a family member and friends with whom he did not have a physician/patient relationship. Dr. Beckhardt is a 1975 graduate of the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. He is board certified in Psychiatry, and has been licensed in Massachusetts since 1982.

In a final matter the Board reprimanded Dr. Richard N. Finegold. He was found to have practiced medicine for a period of time when he was not covered by medical malpractice insurance. Dr. Finegold is a 1980 graduate of the Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. He specializes in Dermatology and was first licensed to practice in Massachusetts in 1984.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine licenses more than 31,000 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 Board orders are available at (781) 876-8267, and in .pdf form on the Board's website at <http://www.massmedboard.org/public/discipline.shtm>.

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