

**Texas Medical Board
Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Medical Board suspends Santa Fe physician John Stafford, M.D.

On March 7, 2011, a disciplinary panel of the Texas Medical Board temporarily suspended, without notice, the medical license of John Sullivan Stafford, M.D., of Santa Fe, Texas, after determining that Dr. Stafford's continuation in the practice of medicine constitutes a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The panel found that Dr. Stafford, Lic. No. G5640, prescribed controlled substances to patients known by law enforcement to be involved in substance abuse and/or substance diversion.

Dr. Stafford, 53, is the owner and operator of Stafford Clinic. Records and other evidence indicate that Dr. Stafford sees in excess of 50 percent of his patients for pain management; however, Stafford Clinic is not registered as a pain management clinic with the Texas Medical Board as required by law.

On January 10, 2011, investigators from the Santa Fe Police Department executed a search warrant and seized evidence of the clinic's operation as a "pill mill." Police said the practice location was dirty and disorganized with patient files in disarray. Dr. Stafford's clinic did not have any stethoscopes or blood pressure cuffs, and there was only one thermometer found on the premises. Blank, pre-signed prescription pads were found in Dr. Stafford's office.

The Temporary Suspension Hearing Without Notice took place under the Board's authority granted by the Medical Practice Act. The physician has the opportunity to have a Temporary Suspension Hearing With Notice at least 10 days after notice of the suspension just taken.