

Texas Medical Board

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Medical Board Suspends License of Steven H. Farber, M.D., of Conroe

A panel of the Texas Medical Board temporarily suspended the license of Steven H. Farber, M.D., license #F8102, of Conroe, after determining that Dr. Farber's continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The action was based on Dr. Farber's impairment due to his own drug and alcohol abuse, and on nontherapeutic prescribing to patients with whom he also had personal relationships, including a patient with a history of drug abuse, to whom he prescribed alprazolam, Paxil, Lunesta, Promethazine, Hydrocodone, diazepam and Tussionex (hydrocodone elixir). The patient was found dead in Dr. Farber's home last April.

Dr. Farber entered Talbott Recovery Program in June 2006, and left against medical advice after two weeks. Dr. Farber entered an outpatient program in August 2006. He has admitted using cocaine, alcohol, methamphetamines, Xanax, Darvocet and marijuana. He admits that he has practiced medicine while under the influence of illicit drugs.

The panel found that Dr. Farber made statements that were inconsistent with the evidence, that he had not accepted responsibility for his addiction and that his current recovery program is not sufficient to protect the public.

The temporary suspension hearing took place Thursday, February 1, and the suspension was effective immediately. The length of a temporary suspension order is indefinite but it remains in effect until the board takes further action.

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The Texas Medical Board, the state agency that regulates physicians, physician assistants, surgical assistants and acupuncturists, provides consumer protection through licensure, investigation and disciplinary action. The Board, under President Roberta M. Kalafut, D.O., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., and mandated by Senate Bill 104 of the 78th Legislature and S.B. 419 of the 79th Legislature, is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for licensees who fail to meet the required standards of professional proficiency and behavior. Information on filing a complaint is on the agency web site at www.tmb.state.tx.us or by calling (800) 201-9353.