

## **Texas Medical Board**

### **Press Release**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Medical Board Suspends License of Susan B. Kern, M.D., of Kingwood**

A panel of the Texas Medical Board temporarily suspended the license of Susan B. Kern, M.D., license #G6785, of Kingwood, after determining that Dr. Kern's continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The action was based on Dr. Kern's failure to comply with previous agreed orders entered into with the board. In a June 3, 2005, order, the board suspended Dr. Kern's license based on findings that Dr. Kern had self-injected drugs in front of patients and staff; had prescribed medications to herself without medical records; kept Schedule III controlled substances in unlocked cabinets; rehired an employee who had been fired for stealing prescriptions; allowed her daughter, an LVN, to see patients and prescribe medicines while Dr. Kern was on vacation; prescribed to her daughter without a medical record; forged an office manager's signature; implemented an improper referral program with a medical therapist; and altered medical records in personal injury cases.

The agreed order of December 9, 2005, which terminated Dr. Kern's suspension, required that she get site approval from the Executive Director of the board before changing jobs and prohibited her from prescribing or refilling controlled substances or dangerous drugs with addictive potential. The panel found that she began employment at the Family Health Clinic of Kingwood without approval and that she prescribed or refilled prescriptions for numerous prohibited substances. The panel also found that she falsely reported that she had not written the prohibited prescriptions since the December 2005 order became effective.

The temporary suspension hearing took place Wednesday 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/consumers/complain/complain.php](http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/consumers/complain/complain.php) or by calling (800) 201-9353. See the home page at [www.tmb.state.tx.us](http://www.tmb.state.tx.us)