

Texas Medical Board Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media contact: Jarrett Schneider, 512-305-7018
Customer service: 512-305-7030 or 800-248-4062

Texas Physician Assistant Board suspends Brownsville physician assistant

On March 29, 2016, a disciplinary panel of the Texas Physician Assistant Board temporarily suspended, without notice, the Texas physician assistant license of Fernando L. Mendez, P.A., after determining his continuation in the practice as a physician assistant poses a continuing threat to public welfare. The suspension was effective immediately.

The Board panel found that on or around June 12, 2015, Mr. Mendez was arrested by the Brownsville Police Department for improper photography or video recording, a state jail felony, after a device was found in a female minor's bathroom. Police were unable to obtain video footage recorded on the device and charges were later dismissed, however, police did confirm that a video recording device disguised as an electrical outlet was purchased with a bank account linked to Mr. Mendez and shipped to his parents' address. The panel also found that the device was found in a bathroom used exclusively by the minor female and that Mr. Mendez refused to allow the minor female's mother to inspect the device, engaged in a physical struggle to prevent her from getting it, and discarded the device such that it has not been found.

Additionally, the panel found that on July 24, 2015, the Brownsville Police Department served an arrest warrant on Mr. Mendez for the fraudulent use or possession of identifying information to fill a Zolpidem (commonly known as Ambien) prescription. Mr. Mendez is currently set to be tried in the prescription case on April 4, 2016.

A temporary suspension hearing with notice will be held as soon as practicable with 10 days' notice to Mr. Mendez, unless the hearing is specifically waived by Mr. Mendez.

The temporary suspension remains in place until the Board takes further action.

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