

**Texas Medical Board
Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Medical Board Suspends License of James N. Fontenot Jr.,
M.D., of Wichita Falls**

A panel of the Texas Medical Board on Wednesday temporarily suspended the license of James N. Fontenot Jr., M.D., license #G7206, of Wichita Falls, after determining that Dr. Fontenot's return to the practice of medicine would present a threat to the public welfare.

The action was based on the panel's finding that Dr. Fontenot failed to comply with a Mediated Nonpublic Agreed Rehabilitation Order entered into between Dr. Fontenot and the Board on September 7, 2001. Dr. Fontenot had voluntarily ceased practice in August, 1997, and the nonpublic order required that he complete certain requirements before returning to practice, including completing an ACGME-approved fellowship or other training program and successfully completing the Post-Licensure Assessment System. Dr. Fontenot notified the board in July, 2004, that he intended to return to practice; his licensure registration is up to date, expiring February 28, 2008. He has also kept his DEA and DPS controlled substance registrations up to date. The panel found that Dr. Fontenot's return to practice without complying with the 2001 order, coupled with his absence from active practice for 10 years, constitutes a threat to the public welfare.

On August 29, a panel of the board issued a temporary suspension order after a hearing without notice. Wednesday's hearing, with notice, confirmed that suspension. 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 or by calling (800) 201-9353. See the home page at www.tmb.state.tx.us