Thursday, September 18, 2003

## Medical Board Suspends License of Luling Physician

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners suspended the license of John Scott Bennett, D.O., of Luling (license number G4820) after a temporary suspension hearing held on Wednesday, September 17.

The action was taken under the Board's authority to temporarily suspend a physician's license when it determines the physician's continuation in practice is a threat to the public welfare. The temporary suspension proceeding was convened without notice under the newly amended Section 164.059(c) of the Medical Practice Act, signed into law and made effective June 10.

The action against Dr. Bennett, a general practitioner, was taken based on allegations relating to improper nontherapeutic prescribing, prescribing with an expired DPS registration, and failure to provide medical records as required to support the long-term prescribing of narcotics, controlled substances and dangerous drugs to patients.

The length of a temporary suspension order is indefinite and the order remains in effect until the board takes further action.

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners is the state agency that regulates physicians, providing consumer protection through licensure, investigation and disciplinary action. The Board, under President Lee S. Anderson, M.D., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for physicians who fail to meet the required standards of professional competency and behavior.

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