

2005 Press Releases

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Medical Board Affirms the Temporary Suspension of the License of William S. Blessing, M.D.

A panel of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners temporarily suspended the license of William Scott Blessing, M.D., license #E0820, of Dallas.

The action took place Tuesday, following a temporary suspension hearing April 6 under the Board's authority, granted by S.B. 104 of the 78th Legislature, to suspend or restrict a physician's license without notice when it determines the physician's continuation in practice would constitute a continuing threat to the public welfare. Tuesday's all-day public hearing was held with notice before a three-member panel of board members and included a court reporter and witnesses presented by Dr. Blessing with opportunities for cross-examination. Dr. Blessing was present at the hearing with counsel.

The action was based on the following: On February 27, Dr. Blessing allegedly assaulted his wife by slamming her head against the floor, pulling her hair and striking her head and ribcage; threatened her with a gun; and told her he was going to kill her. She reported the assault to the Highland Park Department of Public Safety, and a warrant for felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was issued for Dr. Blessing's arrest. Dr. Blessing threatened to kill a detective who contacted him and anyone who stepped on his property. The Dallas Tactical Swat Team was called and after a period of negotiation Dr. Blessing surrendered. He was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Dr. Blessing reports that he has been diagnosed as Manic Depressive Type 2. Dr. Blessing voluntarily admitted himself to Timberlawn Hospital on March 3, and was discharged on March 20. The initial evaluation indicated the Dr. Blessing was admitted for increased bipolar symptoms and that he had not been taking his Depakote, used for treating the disorder, every day.

Dr. Blessing's hospital privileges at North Hills Hospital were terminated on March 16 because the hospital's Medical Executive Committee determined that his failure to disclose his bipolar condition posed a risk to the safety of patients.

There is no evidence in Dr. Blessing's licensure file or in his 2003, 2004 and 2005 annual registration forms to indicate that he has reported his manic depressive disorder to the board. Filing false information with the Board is a violation of the Medical Practice Act.

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

-

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, 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 Lee S. Anderson, M.D., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., and mandated by Senate Bill 104 of the 78th Legislature, is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for licensees who fail to meet the required standards of professional proficiency and behavior.

Media contact Public Information Officer Jill Wiggins at
jill.wiggins@tmb.state.tx.us or (512) 305-7018

Non-media contact: (512) 305-7030 or (800) 248-4062

Open records requests for orders may be made to

or write to:

Texas State Board of Medical Examiners
MC 251
P.O. Box 2018
Austin, TX 78768-2018

To receive press releases by e-mail:
jill.wiggins@tmb.state.tx.us