

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(July 15, 2010)

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following action:

Jerry A. Hancock, M.D., a 49-year-old physician who practices obstetrics and gynecology in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on July 8, 2010. In 1999, the Board received information which indicated that Dr. Hancock acted in a verbally abusive and unprofessional manner toward at least three patients. The Board ordered Dr. Hancock to complete a physical, neuropsychological and substance abuse evaluation. The Board had concerns about Dr. Hancock's anger management problems in the work place and his alcohol use and recommended that he complete counseling and abstain from the use of alcohol. The Board subsequently received information which indicated that Dr. Hancock continued to engage in verbally abusive and unprofessional conduct toward patients and others. The Board ordered Dr. Hancock to complete another physical, neuropsychological and substance abuse evaluation. The Board determined that Dr. Hancock had anger management problems that impacted his medical practice. On April 8, 2005, Dr. Hancock entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Hancock with engaging in a pattern of unprofessional conduct and disruptive behavior in the practice of medicine. The Board issued Dr. Hancock a public reprimand and referred him to the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) for counseling and monitoring. In July 2008, Dr. Hancock was removed from a rock concert in Des Moines, Iowa, because he appeared intoxicated and he became angry and threatening toward other concert-goers and security. On July 8, 2009, the Board ordered Dr. Hancock to complete another physical, neuropsychological and substance abuse evaluation. On February 4, 2010, the Board charged Dr. Hancock with engaging in a pattern of unprofessional conduct and alcohol abuse. On July 8, 2010, Dr. Hancock was placed on probation for a period of five years subject to counseling and Board monitoring. The Board also issued Dr. Hancock a public reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine.

James G. Kannenberg, M.D., a 57-year-old physician who practices family medicine in Fort Madison, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on July 8, 2010. The Board charged Dr. Kannenberg alleging that he repeatedly failing to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of medicine in Iowa and engaging in a pattern of unethical and/or unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine, including the following: he failed to pay appropriate attention to a stroke patient; he failed to respond as the "physician-on-call" in the emergency department; he failed to provide appropriate care to another patient who suffered a stroke; he performed inadequate examinations and billed for services that were not provided; and he failed to provide appropriate monitoring for patients who underwent cardiac stress testing. On December 23, 2009, the Board ordered Dr. Kannenberg to undergo a physical, neuropsychological, mental health and disruptive behavior evaluation. On April 8, 2010, Dr. Kannenberg voluntarily stopped practicing medicine to begin addressing the Board's concerns in this matter. Dr. Kannenberg cannot return to the practice of medicine until he demonstrates that he is safe to return and he receives written approval from the Board. Dr. Kannenberg also agreed to complete Board-approved counseling and treatment and a Board-approved ethics program. Should the Board approve Dr. Kannenberg's return to the practice of medicine he will be placed on probation for a period of five years subject counseling and Board monitoring.

Christie M. Mensch, M.D., a 36-year-old physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Sioux City, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against her by the Iowa Board. On July 31, 2002, the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts (Missouri Board) placed Dr. Mensch on probation for substance abuse. On October 30, 2003, the Missouri Board issued Dr. Mensch a public reprimand for using drugs in violation of the terms of her probation. On November 19, 2007, Dr. Mensch entered into a Consent Agreement with the Iowa Board and she was issued a permanent Iowa medical license. Dr. Mensch was required to enter into a Physician Health Contract with the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) for substance abuse counseling and monitoring. On June 6, 2008, the IPHP determined that Dr. Mensch violated the terms of her Physician Health Contract when she failed to comply with the IPHP drug screening program on two occasions. On October 23, 2008, Dr. Mensch entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board. The Iowa Board charged Dr. Mensch for violating the terms of her IPHP Physician Health Contract. Dr. Mensch was placed on probation for a period of two years subject to substance abuse counseling and Board monitoring. The Iowa Board also issued Dr. Mensch a public reprimand and ordered her to pay a \$1,000 fine. On September 9, 2009, Dr. Mensch tested positive for methamphetamine. On July 8, 2010, the Board charged Dr. Mensch for violating of the terms of her October 23, 2008, Settlement Agreement and for engaging in substance abuse. A hearing has been scheduled on August 20, 2010.

Consumers can submit complaints against physicians through the Board's Website at www.medicalboard.iowa.gov, by calling (515) 281-5847, or by mail at 400 SW 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309-4686.