

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(August 14, 2007)

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

Israel V. Fernando, M.D., a 55 year-old physician who practiced dermatology in several locations in eastern, Iowa, had the suspension of his Iowa medical license affirmed by the Board. On August 25, 2005, the Board charged Dr. Fernando for failing to provide appropriate care and treatment to numerous dermatology patients. On September 14, 2006, Dr. Fernando entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board and he agreed to complete a comprehensive competency evaluation. Dr. Fernando completed the competency evaluation and the evaluation program concluded that he has very serious competency deficiencies and recommended that he complete a remediation program. After careful consideration of all of the information obtained in this matter, including the evaluation report, the Board concluded that the deficiencies in Dr. Fernando's professional competency are so widespread and serious that he is not safe to practice medicine in a competent manner. On June 19, 2007, the Board issued an Order immediately suspending Dr. Fernando's Iowa medical license. A hearing was held on July 17, 2007. On August 9, 2007, the Board issued a Decision and Order. The Board concluded that Dr. Fernando has widespread deficiencies in his medical knowledge, clinical judgment, and communication, which must be remediated before he can safely return to the practice of dermatology. The Board affirmed the indefinite suspension of Dr. Fernando's Iowa medical license and determined that he must successfully complete a Board-approved remediation program and re-evaluation before the Board will consider reinstating his medical license. If the Board chooses to reinstate his license, Dr. Fernando will be placed on probation subject to the appropriate terms and conditions.

Narinder Kumar, M.D., a 54 year-old pediatrician from Bettendorf, Iowa, had his Iowa medical license reinstated by the Board. On May 31, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Kumar alleging that he engaged in a pattern of unprofessional conduct. The Board received information which raised concerns about his alcohol consumption and allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior. At the direction of the Board, Dr. Kumar completed a substance abuse and professional misconduct evaluation. The assessment program was unable to substantiate the allegations. Dr. Kumar was placed on probation for a period of five years subject to numerous terms and conditions. The Board subsequently received information which alleged that Dr. Kumar violated the terms of his probation and that he performed an inappropriate physical examination on an adult female. On April 26, 2007, the Board filed an order immediately suspending Dr. Kumar's license. The Board alleged that Dr. Kumar engaged in sexual misconduct, examined female patients without a chaperone present, interfered with the staff reporting process and practiced without a physician monitor. A hearing was held on July 19, 2007. On August 9, 2007, the Board issued a Decision and Order reinstating Dr. Kumar's Iowa medical license. The Board concluded that there was insufficient evidence to substantiate the allegations that Dr. Kumar engaged in sexual misconduct or inappropriately examined female patients without a chaperone present in violation of his Board order. The Board dismissed those charges. The Board concluded that Dr. Kumar violated his Board order when he failed to file the required reports with the Board. The Board issued Dr. Kumar a public reprimand for violating his Board order, placed him on probation and ordered him to continue to have a Board-approved female healthcare professional chaperone continually present when he performs physical examinations on all female patients and to continue to utilize staff surveillance forms and patient satisfaction surveys and file quarterly reports with the Board.

David M. Spector, M.D., a 44 year-old oncologist from Davenport, Iowa, had his Iowa medical license reinstated by the Board. On August 5, 2005, Dr. Spector was arrested and charged with physically assaulting his wife and he pleaded guilty to simple assault not involving domestic violence. Dr. Spector subsequently self-reported to the Board's Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) but he failed to fully comply with the requirements established by the IPHP. On September 21, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Spector with violating the IPHP contract and for engaging in a pattern of unethical or unprofessional conduct and practice harmful or detrimental to the public. On November 14, 2006, Dr. Spector was arrested and charged a second time for physically assaulting his wife. The criminal charges were later dismissed. On November 17, 2006, at the direction of the Board, Dr. Spector agreed to stop practicing medicine. Dr. Spector completed an evaluation on November 28, 2006, and the evaluation program recommended that he not practice medicine until he completed residential treatment. On December 19, 2006, Dr. Spector entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve the pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Spector agreed not to practice medicine until he received written approval from the Board and he agreed to complete residential treatment. He was also issued a public reprimand and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. Dr. Spector petitioned for reinstatement of his license and a hearing was held on July 18-19, 2007. On August 9, 2007, the Board issued a Decision and Order. The Board concluded that Dr. Spector has now completed the required evaluation, has completed ninety days of residential treatment and is complying with all treatment recommendations. All of Dr. Spector's treatment providers have indicated that he has made significant progress and that he should be permitted to return to the practice of medicine. The Board reinstated Dr. Spector's Iowa medical license and placed him on indefinite probation subject to certain terms and conditions. The Board noted that Dr. Spector's pattern of abusive behavior toward his wife presented significant public safety concerns and without intervention and treatment, his personal problems and behaviors would have eventually spilled over into his medical practice. The Board also noted that Dr. Spector's unprofessional behavior had a negative effect on the public's perception of the integrity of the medical profession.