



**PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(December 16, 2020)**

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

William E. Olson, M.D., a 55-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices general surgery in the Quad Cities had a Statement of Charges filed against him by the Board on December 10, 2020. The Board alleged that Dr. Olson engaged in professional incompetency in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. A contested case hearing shall be scheduled in the future.

Ronald N. Schope, M.D., a 75-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practiced pulmonary and internal medicine in Dubuque, Iowa, successfully completed the terms of his Board order. On October 23, 2020, Dr. Schope entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that Dr. Schope prescribed a controlled substance on one occasion to his wife for a non-acute, non-emergency condition without establishing a physician-patient relationship and maintaining proper documentation in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. Dr. Schope maintains he believed his wife was suffering from a medical emergency for which he prescribed the controlled substance. Under the terms of the October 23, 2020, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Schope a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved controlled substance prescribing course. On December 10, 2020, the Board determined that Dr. Schope has successfully completed the terms of the October 23, 2020, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement and the Board issued a Termination Order. Therefore, Dr. Schope's Iowa medical license is returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

Nicky Shah, M.D., a 52-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices internal medicine in San Francisco, California, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on December 10, 2020.

On April 3, 2013, Dr. Shah was ticketed for speeding in excess of 95 mph near Chico, California. Dr. Shah allegedly told the California Highway Patrol officer that he was on his way to a medical emergency when, in fact, he was just late for work. Dr. Shah subsequently submitted a letter to District Attorney's Office for consideration of dismissing the speeding ticket and Dr. Shah's letter allegedly contained fabricated information regarding the reported medical emergency on the day he was ticketed for speeding. On May 9, 2017, Dr. Shah was found guilty of one Count of Offering False Evidence and one Count of Preparing False Documentary Evidence, both felony convictions. On September 28, 2017, Dr. Shah was sentenced to 36 months formal probation with terms and

conditions. Dr. Shah has appealed the criminal convictions. On February 6, 2020, the Iowa Board filed a Statement of Charges against Dr. Shah alleging that he engaged in unprofessional conduct and was convicted of a felony in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. Dr. Shah subsequently had his California medical license revoked based on the same set of circumstances. Under the terms of the December 10, 2020, Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board suspended Dr. Shah's Iowa medical license for a minimum of one year after which he may seek reinstatement. The Iowa Board also issued Dr. Shah a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved professional ethics program.

Denice N. Smith, M.D., a 43-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Morrison, Illinois, and Clinton, Iowa, and currently practices in Rock Falls, Illinois, had the terms of her disciplinary Order terminated by the Iowa Board on December 10, 2020. On October 28, 2013, Dr. Smith entered into a Consent Order with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (Illinois Board). The Illinois Board alleged that Dr. Smith surrendered her DEA Registration for cause based on her prescribing of controlled substances to several patients in her practice in Morrison, Illinois. The Illinois Board placed Dr. Smith on indefinite probation for a minimum of one (1) year subject to Board monitoring, including a practice monitor, and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 fine. The Illinois Board also ordered her to complete 10 Category I continuing medical education credits for the proper prescribing of controlled substances and 10 credits for addiction disorders. On July 10, 2015, Dr. Smith entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board. Under the terms of the July 10, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Smith with being disciplined by the Illinois Board. The Iowa Board issued Dr. Smith a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty. The Iowa Board also prohibited her from prescribing, administering or dispensing narcotics for the treatment of chronic pain under her Iowa medical license and ordered her to successfully complete a Board-approved professional ethics program. The Iowa Board also placed Dr. Smith on probation for a period of three (3) years subject to monitoring, including audits of her controlled substance prescribing. On July 10, 2018, the Iowa Board terminated the terms of Dr. Smith's probation. On December 10, 2020, the Iowa Board terminated the prohibition for prescribing, administering or dispensing narcotics for the treatment of chronic pain under her Iowa medical license and Dr. Smith's Iowa medical license is returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

When appropriate, disciplinary actions are reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, an electronic repository administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to track adverse license actions.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: Consumers can submit complaints against physicians at <https://medicalboard.iowa.gov/consumers/filing-complaint>, by calling (515) 281-5847 or mail to 400 SW 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309.

To view these actions, please visit our Find a Physician page at the link below: <https://eservices.iowa.gov/PublicPortal/Iowa/IBM/licenseQuery/LicenseQuery.jsp?Profession=Physician>