

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
(September 7, 2006)

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

James S. Bischoff, M.D., a 48 year-old family physician formerly practicing medicine in Montana and Idaho had his Iowa medical license revoked. On November 19, 2004, the Montana Board of Medical Examiners revoked Dr. Bischoff's Montana medical license based on information that Dr. Bischoff was under criminal investigation for illegally hastening the death of patients, illegally attempting to induce abortion of some pregnancies and illegally obtaining, possessing and distributing dangerous amounts of narcotics. Dr. Bischoff pleaded guilty to one charge of negligent homicide, a felony, for injecting an elderly female patient with a lethal dose of narcotic drugs and, to two felony drug charges for illegally obtaining, possessing and distributing dangerous amounts of narcotics. Dr. Bischoff was arrested and is incarcerated on charges of armed robbery of a bank in Rexburg, Idaho. On January 12, 2006, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Bischoff with engaging in unprofessional or unethical conduct and/or practice harmful or detrimental to the public practice, with being disciplined by another state and with violating the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine. A hearing on the charges was held before the Iowa Board on April 27, 2006. On August 26, 2006, the Iowa Board revoked Dr. Bischoff's Iowa medical license.

Zehra I. Rowjee, M.D. a 60 year-old psychiatrist from Niles, Illinois, entered into a Consent Agreement with the Iowa Board. Dr. Rowjee was charged criminally with Medicaid fraud when she billed for psychiatric services that were not provided. She was convicted at trial, but the conviction was reversed on appeal due to procedural irregularities. Later she agreed to a civil settlement and the criminal charges were expunged from her record. Dr. Rowjee failed to disclose this information on her application for a permanent Iowa medical license. Under the terms of the Consent Agreement, the Board granted Dr. Rowjee a permanent Iowa medical license and she was issued a public reprimand and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 fine, complete a Board-approved ethics program and complete Board-approved continuing medical education for appropriate billing practices.