

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER

OF

WILLIAM EUGENE WATKINS, M.D.
CO-03-09-4154-A

**COMMISSIONER'S
SUMMARY
ORDER**

TO: WILLIAM EUGENE WATKINS, M.D.
14445 Tyler Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

WILLIAM EUGENE WATKINS, M.D.
217 Escondido Avenue
Suite 5
Vista, CA 92084

WILLIAM EUGENE WATKINS, M.D.
3523 Caminito Sierra
#K304
Carlsbad, CA 92009

WILLIAM EUGENE WATKINS, M.D.
7704 Caminito Sierra
Apt. T 101
Carlsbad, CA 92009

The undersigned, Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H., Commissioner of Health, pursuant to N.Y. Public Health Law §230, upon the recommendation of a committee on Professional Medical Conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, has determined that the duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another jurisdiction, the Office of Administrative Hearings, State of California (hereinafter "California Board") has made a finding substantially equivalent to a finding that the practice of medicine by **WILLIAM EUGENE WATKINS, M.D.**, Respondent, licensed to practice medicine in New York state on September 15, 1975, by issuance of license number 125350, in that jurisdiction, constitutes an imminent danger to the health, safety, and welfare of its people, as is more fully set forth in documents of the California Board, attached hereto, as Appendix "A," and made a part hereof.

It is, therefore:

ORDERED, pursuant to N.Y. Public Health Law Section 230(12)(b), that effective immediately, **WILLIAM EUGENE WATKINS, M.D.**, Respondent, shall not practice medicine in the state of New York or in any other jurisdiction where that practice is dependent on a valid New York state license to practice medicine.

Any practice of medicine in the state of New York or in any other jurisdiction where that practice is dependent on a valid New York state license to practice medicine in violation of this Commissioner's Summary Order shall constitute Professional Misconduct within the meaning of N.Y. Educ. Law §6530 and may constitute unauthorized medical practice, a felony defined by N.Y. Educ. Law §6512.

This Order shall remain in effect until the final conclusion of a hearing that shall commence within thirty (30) days after the final conclusion of the disciplinary proceeding in the state of California. The hearing will be held pursuant to the provisions of NY. Pub. Health Law §230, and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §301-307 and 401. The hearing will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, on a date and at a location to be set forth in a written Notice of Referral Proceeding, together with a Statement of Charges, to be provided to the Respondent after the final conclusion of the California proceeding. Said written Notice may be provided in person, by mail or by other means. If Respondent wishes to be provided said written notice at an address other than those set forth above, Respondent shall so notify, in writing, both the attorney whose name is set forth on this Order and the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, at the addresses set forth below.

Respondent shall notify the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, New York State Department of Health, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180-2299 via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, of the final conclusion of the California proceeding, immediately upon such conclusion.

THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE BE REVOKED OR SUSPENDED AND/OR THAT YOU MAY BE FINED OR SUBJECT TO OTHER SANCTIONS SET FORTH IN NEW YORK PUBLIC HEALTH LAW SECTION 230-A. YOU ARE URGED TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY FOR THIS MATTER.

DATE: Albany, New York

December 15, 2003



ANTONIA C. NOVELLO, M.D., M.P.H, Dr. P. H.
Commissioner

Inquires should be addressed to:

Robert Bogan
Associate Counsel
Office of Professional Medical Conduct
433 River Street – Suite 303
Troy, New York 12180
(518) 402-0828

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Interim Suspension
Order Sought by:

RON JOSEPH
Executive Director
Medical Board of California

Against:

WILLIAM E. WATKINS, M.D.
7704 Caminito Sierra, Apartment T-101
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 36219

Respondent.

Case Nos. 10-2001-122238, et al.
OAH No. L-2003070553

**ORDER SUSPENDING LICENSE
PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT
CODE SECTION 11529**

TO: WILLIAM E. WATKINS, M.D.

James Ahler, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, State of California, a member of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel, carefully read and considered all moving and responsive pleadings (including expert witness declarations, declarations of lay witnesses, portions of deposition transcripts and patient charts and records) and heard and considered oral argument in support of and in opposition to the issuance of an Interim Order of Suspension under Government Code section 11529 on August 14, 2003.

Steven H. Zeigen, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, State of California, represented Petitioner Ron Joseph, Executive Director, Medical Board of California.

Gabriel M. Benrubi, Attorney at Law, represented Respondent William E. Watkins, M.D., who was present throughout the proceeding.

IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED that the preponderance of the evidence set forth in the declarations and other reliable written materials established that Dr. Watkins violated the Medical Practice Act in connection with his surgical care and treatment of patients F.T., A.B., M.M. and P.S.

Dr. Watkins was not a board-certified plastic surgeon. He performed a few plastic surgeries annually including breast augmentations and facelifts. These procedures were performed in his office while patients were under local anesthesia and nerve blocks rather than under a general anesthesia. These were not minor surgeries. These surgeries carried numerous risks. The patients' vital signs were not monitored during the surgeries. No competent surgical assistant was present to assist Dr. Watkins during the surgeries. An unqualified nurse was asked to close a patient wound on one occasion. The environment in which the surgeries were performed was less than sterile.

Dr. Watkins' patients were exposed to significant risks of unreasonable and preventable harm.

Dr. Watkins no longer provides plastic surgery. His medical practice is limited to making house calls. He is not supervised.

Dr. Watkins' professional conduct in connection with the four patients identified in the Accusation – as evidenced by a preponderance of the competent, credible evidence contained in the available declarations and other written documents - involved repeated acts of gross negligence demonstrating either indifference to his patients or a lack of professional competence. There is no reason to believe these underlying causes are limited to surgical procedures, but rather that they permeate the whole of Dr. Watkins' medical practice.

Dr. Watkins' professional reputation and the ability of those patients who would like to continue treating with Dr. Watkins will be jeopardized by granting an interim order of suspension, but on balance the compelling nature of the evidence requires that Dr. Watkins' license to practice medicine be suspended pending a full evidentiary hearing on this matter in order to protect the public.

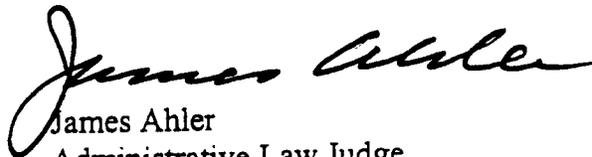
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

1. This is a proper case for the issuance of an interim license suspension because there is a reasonable probability that Petitioner will prevail in the underlying Accusation and that permitting Respondent William E. Watkins, M.D. to continue the practice of medicine will endanger the public health, safety and welfare; and,
2. There likelihood of serious injury to the public that would result by not issuing the interim order of suspension far outweighs the likelihood of injury to William E. Watkins, M.D. and others by not issuing the requested order; and,
3. Pending further order from the Office of Administrative Hearings, Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. 36219, issued to William E. Watkins, M.D., by the Medical Board of California on December 2, 1974, shall be and hereby is suspended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT this matter shall proceed to an evidentiary hearing within the next thirty (30) days in accordance with Government Code section 11529.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT this Interim Order of Suspension shall remain in effect pending a final decision on the underlying Accusation.

Dated: 8/14/03



James Ahler
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings

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Office of Administrative Hearings
SAN DIEGO

**BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Interim Suspension Order
Against:

RON JOSEPH
Executive Director
Medical Board of California

Petitioner,

v.

WILLIAM E. WATKINS, M.D.
7704 Caminito Sierra, Apt. T 101
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. C 36219

Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 36219

Respondent.

Case No. 10-2001-122238;
10-2001-122239; 10-2001-123048;
10-2002-131190

**ORDER SUSPENDING LICENSE
PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT
CODE SECTION 11529**

Date: July 23, 2003
Time: 11:00 AM

Location: OAH
1350 Front Street, Suite 6022
San Diego, CA 92101

TO: WILLIAM E. WATKINS, M.D.

THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS, having read and considered
the Petition for Interim Order, supporting memorandum of points and authorities, declarations
and exhibits, and having read and considered any opposition papers filed thereto in the above-
entitled matter;

1 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT:

2 1. This is a proper case for the issuance of an interim license suspension in
3 that permitting respondent William E. Watkins, M.D. to continue to practice medicine will
4 endanger the public health, safety, and welfare; and

5 2. Serious injury will result to the public before the noticed hearing in this
6 matter can be heard; and

7 3. Therefore, pending further order from the Office of Administrative
8 Hearings, Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. 36219 which was issued to respondent
9 William E. Watkins, M.D. on December 2, 1974, shall be, and hereby is, suspended.

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent William E. Watkins, M.D., appear
11 at the Office of the Administrative Hearings located at 1350 Front Street, Room 6022, San
12 Diego, California 92101, on 14th day of August, 2003, 9:00 a.m., or as soon
13 thereafter as the matter can be heard, then and there to show cause, if any, why the order
14 suspending Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. 36219 should not remain in full force and
15 effect pending a decision after an administrative hearing on the charges and allegations contained
16 in Accusation 10-2001-122238.

17 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any written argument, declarations and points
18 and authorities of the respondent, William E. Watkins, M.D., shall be filed and served by the
19 close of business of August 11th, 2003.

20 IT IS SO ORDERED this 24th day of July, 2003.

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24 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
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