

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
ROBERT A. PAOLELLA, M.D.
License Number MD 08017**

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Robert A. Paolella, MD (hereinafter "Respondent") is a 52-year-old physician who is a 1986 graduate of University of Guadalajara Medical College. He was originally trained in Radiology Oncology but practices Internal Medicine. He has been licensed as a physician in the State of Rhode Island since July 3, 1991.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent came to the attention of the Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline in 2003 when he was charged with willfully making false entries in patient records at Haven Health Center in Greenville, RI. He was issued a reprimand and was required to attend the Ethics and Professionalism program at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine.
2. In September of 2006, the Board requested Respondent to appear at the Board meeting to answer allegations from a female patient regarding boundary violations. During the meeting Respondent fired the attorney who was representing him. Based upon the allegations made by the patient and Respondent's behavior during the meeting, the Board voted to require Respondent to receive a forensic mental health evaluation. The medical evaluation recommended psychotherapy and oversight of his medical practice through the Rhode Island Medical Society Physician Health Committee (PHC). The Respondent was put on a non-disciplinary contract wherein he was supposed to cooperate with the PHC and his counselor.
3. The Respondent did not cooperate as described in the Diversion Contract and was disciplined by the Board with a Reprimand and Ordering a five-year monitoring agreement.
4. The Board learned in 2011 that Respondent has provided prescriptions for controlled substances to a patient without complete medical records on file at his office.

5. He has been appearing unannounced at physician offices requesting assistance with his practice and leaving desperate notes behind.
6. In October 2010, Respondent was arrested for possession of Marijuana, which was dismissed under Rule 48(a) of the District Court Rules of Criminal Procedure in January of 2011 after payment of court costs.
7. Recently, Warwick Police SWAT team arrived at Respondent's home after receiving a report that Respondent was barricaded in his home with firearms. Police confiscated 19 pistols and rifles and held them for safekeeping. After surrendering, Respondent was involuntarily admitted to a psychiatric unit for being a danger to him-self and others. He had recently shaved his head and became threatening to his family and had violated a restraining Order.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, the Director of Health has determined that the continuation of the practice of medicine by Robert A. Paoella, MD constitutes an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the public. Accordingly, Robert A. Paoella, MD is hereby suspended from practicing medicine forthwith pursuant to R.I. General Laws §5-37-8. This suspension will remain in full force and effect until further action of the Board.

The Respondent may request a hearing on this matter to be scheduled within ten (10) days of the effective date below, if so requested.

Signed this 19 day of April 2011.



Michael Fine, MD
Interim Director of Health
R.I. Department of Health
Cannon Building, Room 401
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097
Tel. (401) 222-2231
Fax (401) 222-6548

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this **Summary Suspension Order** was sent to the Respondent on this 21st day of April 2011 at the following address:

Robert A. Paoella, M.D.
69 Timberline Road
Warwick, RI 02888

Reinaldo Julian