

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION

BOSTON: At its meeting today the state Board of Registration in Medicine took disciplinary action against the medical licenses of Michael R. Brown, M.D., Howard R. Spivak, M.D. and William S. Friedman, M.D.

The Board revoked the right of Dr. Michael Brown to renew his license to practice medicine. Dr. Brown's license was summarily suspended in August 2005 following multiple allegations that he illegally distributed drugs, illegally possessed controlled substances and committed Medicaid fraud. He has since been convicted of these offenses. Although Dr. Brown's license has expired, he would still have a right to renew his license absent today's Board action. Dr. Brown is a 1979 graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine and was first licensed to practice in Massachusetts in 1980.

The Board also indefinitely suspended the license to practice medicine of Dr. Howard R. Spivak. The Board found that Dr. Spivak admitted to use of illegal drugs. Dr. Spivak may petition the Board for a stay of the suspension upon demonstration of 12 months of continuous sobriety and entry into a Probation Agreement that provides for monitoring of him and his practice. Dr. Spivak is a 1973 graduate of the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry. He is board certified in Pediatrics and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1976.

In another matter, the Board found the Dr. William S. Friedman engaged in inappropriate and disruptive behavior with co-workers, and had been disciplined by his employer. Today the Board reprimanded Dr. Friedman, an action reportable to the national physician data banks. Dr. Friedman is a 1977 graduate of the Medical College of Wisconsin. He maintains a private practice as a family practitioner, and has been licensed in Massachusetts since 1980.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine licenses more than 30,000 physicians, osteopaths and acupuncturists. The Board was created in 1894 to protect the public health and safety by setting standards for the practice of medicine and ensuring that doctors who practice in the Commonwealth are appropriately qualified and competent. The Board investigates complaints, holds hearings and determines sanctions. More information is available at www.massmedboard.org.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Copies of orders issued by the Board are available at (617) 654-9867, and in .pdf form on the Board's website at <http://www.massmedboard.org/public/discipline.shtml>.

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