

Five accuse psychiatrist of sexual harassment

Patients say Allie Boyd offered drugs for favors

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Five former patients of Tuscaloosa psychiatrist Allie Boyd have stepped forward claiming sexual harassment during his care at North Harbor Pavilion, at the Tuscaloosa Treatment Center and at his private practice.

Telesa Dent Morrison, Dianna Marie Spencer, Diane Cannon Watkins, Jeremy Franklin and Marcus W. Skelton filed lawsuits against Boyd, alleging that he made inappropriate sexual advances, offered prescription medication for sexual favors and, in some cases, groped them.

The suits allege that Boyd preferred to examine his patients in private and at least once checked a patient out of a facility and transported him to his own home.

The suit also states that Boyd threatened to withdraw prescription medications from the patients if they did not keep the alleged events secret.

Boyd did not return repeated phone calls Friday from The Tuscaloosa News about the lawsuit. Attempts to reach his attorney were unsuccessful.

The lawsuits were filed this month, with the exception of Watkins' suit, which was filed in March, and Spencer's suit, which was filed in October. Their attorney, Justice D. Smyth, said it has been a yearlong process between the patients, his law firm and the psychiatric and drug rehabilitation facilities involved.

Despite the nature of the allegations, Smyth said the plaintiffs wanted to be named in the suits in an effort to bring closure to their experiences.

DCH Healthcare, which runs North Harbor, is a defendant in the Morrison and Skelton suits. Boyd was not an employee of DCH at the time of the incidents but had treatment privileges at the facility.

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