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Dublin Doctor Accused Of Sexual Misconduct Loses License

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DUBLIN, Ohio - A doctor lost his license on Wednesday after testifying before the medical board in connection with being accused of sexual misconduct against his patients.

Board examiners concluded John Beathler sexually abused at least seven female patients while giving them pelvic or other exams at his Columbus office from 2002 to 2010, 10TV's Chuck Strickler reported.

"Not one of my patients died from ovarian, cervical, or uterine cancer in 12 years of practicing," Beathler testified. "Some of the patients I had been treating for a long time, and I was not aware of the discomfort, complaints, feelings or sensations, so I assumed the way I was doing things was correct, I apologize to them."

"I'll be honest, I can't get past the horrible things you've done to these women," said Medical Board Member, Dr. Anita Steinbergh.

"I assure you there is no safety issue to my patients when I return to practicing caring, quality medicine," Beathler said.

The board voted to permanently revoke Beathler's Ohio license.

Its executive director said the board exists to protect the public in cases like this, Strickler reported.

"It does take a long time, and are these the only individuals who were sexually abused by this physician, we don't know, we don't have that information, I hope to God, there are not any others out there, but I can tell you in the future, there won't be any more in Ohio," said Richard Whitehouse.

Whitehouse said out of the 4000 to 5,000 complaints the board receives every year, about 3 percent deal with cases involving doctors accused of crossing sexual boundaries.

He said information about Beathler's license revocation will be transmitted to the medical boards of neighboring states.

Breathler may appeal the decision in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, Strickler reported.

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