



Essex District Attorney's Office Jonathan Blodgett

[Home](#) > [Media](#) > [Press Release Archives](#) > [Boxford Oral Surgeon Convicted of Sexual Assault](#)

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Media Contact

978-745-6610 ext. 5079

Boxford Oral Surgeon Convicted of Indecent Assault & Battery on a Patient

A Peabody District Court jury found Dr. George Hatzigiannis, 41, of Boxford, guilty of sexually assaulting a female patient yesterday after a one day trial. The defendant was charged with one count of indecent assault & battery on a person over 14 years old after the Lynn Police conducted an investigation into the incident which occurred in the defendant's oral surgery office on Exchange Street in Lynn.

Judge Matthew Nestor sentenced him to two and a half years in the House of Correction with one year to be served and the balanced suspended for two and a half years. After he is released, he is required to register as a sex offender, undergo both a sex offender and mental health evaluation and receive any treatment deemed necessary, and stay away from and have no contact with the victim.

Essex Assistant District Attorney Susan Dolhun proved that on November 16, 2010, the defendant fondled a 16 year old female patient's breast while she was under sedation for a dental procedure. The evidence proved that this defendant took advantage of a patient who was in an especially vulnerable position and grossly abused her trust of him.

The Board of Dentistry secured a voluntary agreement with Dr. Hartzigiannis not to practice dentistry following his arraignment based on the severity of the charges. The Board is now considering all options available, including revocation of license, based on the criminal conviction.

Hatzigiannis was taken into custody immediately following sentencing. He is represented by Attorney Paul Cirel of Boston.

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