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Fort Myers psychiatrist's license in jeopardy
By: Dave Breitenstein

The Florida Department of Health wants to suspend or revoke the medical license of a Fort Myers psychiatrist accused of having sex with a patient with an identity disorder.

Emanuel John Falcone, 52, had his New York license revoked Oct. 3 after that state's Board of Professional Medical Misconduct ruled Falcone was morally unfit, negligent and incompetent.

Florida's Department of Health filed its own complaint against Falcone on April 27. However, press secretary Susan Smith would not disclose whether the state is looking into the case.

"Florida statutes prohibit me from acknowledging or denying an investigation until 10 days after probable cause is found," Smith said.

Falcone's Florida license was issued July 1, 1984, and is valid until Jan. 31, 2011.

The New York investigation ruled Falcone:

- Engaged in a sexual relationship with a patient.
- Violated the patient's confidentiality by reviewing her writings submitted to his wife, a social worker.
- Was negligent by treating the patient's multiple personalities as if they were separate beings instead of memory states.
- Was incompetent by providing treatment that worsened the patient's condition, failed to recognize the physician-patient relationship, sending gifts to the patient and allowing her to become a houseguest.
- Committed misconduct for failing to maintain medical records for the patient's treatment and prescriptions.

Falcone moved from New York to Fort Myers in 2005, and at one point worked with Lee Mental Health Center, Inc. Todd Cordisca, the center's director of development, said Thursday that Falcone "has not worked here for a while," but would not specify when he left the agency.

The mailing address listed on Falcone's medical license is for the Florida State Prison in Raiford. He is not listed as an inmate, although the

Department of Corrections was not able to confirm Thursday night whether Falcone was an employee.

Falcone could not be reached for comment at his Fort Myers home. He is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, with certification in general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry.

- Staff writer Jennifer Booth Reed contributed to this story.