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**IN THE MATTER**  
**OF**  
**BRUCE M. FORESTER, M.D.**  
**CO-03-02-0804-A**

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**COMMISSIONER'S  
ORDER  
AND  
NOTICE OF  
REFERRAL  
PROCEEDING**

**TO:** BRUCE M. FORESTER, M.D.  
55 Northway  
Bronxville, NY 10708

BRUCE M. FORESTER, M.D.  
51 East 73 Street  
New York, NY 10021

The undersigned, Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H., Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health, after an investigation, upon the recommendation of a committee on professional medical conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, and upon the Statement of Charges attached, hereto, and made a part hereof, has determined that **BRUCE M. FORESTER, M.D.**, Respondent, licensed to practice medicine in New York state on July 18, 1966, by license number 097028, has been found guilty, based on a plea of guilty, of committing acts constituting felonies under federal law in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

It is therefore,

ORDERED, pursuant to N.Y. Public Health Law Section 230(12)(b), that effective immediately, **BRUCE M. FORESTER, M.D.**, Respondent, shall not practice medicine in the State of New York or in any other jurisdiction where that practice is dependent on a valid New York State license to practice medicine. This order shall remain in effect

unless modified or vacated by the Commissioner of Health pursuant to N.Y. Public Health Law Section 230(12).

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Public Health Law Section 230, and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act Sections 301-307 and 401. The hearing will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board of Professional Medical Conduct, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003 at 10:00 am in the forenoon at The Best Western Rensselaer Inn, 1800 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Troy, New York 12180. The Respondent may file an answer to the Statement of Charges with the below-named attorney for the Department of Health.

At the hearing, evidence will be received concerning the allegations set forth in the Statement of Charges, that is attached. A stenographic record of the hearing will be made and the witnesses at the hearing will be sworn and examined. The Respondent shall appear in person at the hearing and may be represented by counsel. The Respondent has the right to produce witnesses and evidence on his behalf, to issue or have subpoenas issued on his behalf for the production of witnesses and documents. Such evidence or sworn testimony shall be strictly limited to evidence and testimony relating to the nature and severity of the penalty to be imposed upon the licensee. Where the charges are based on the conviction of state law crimes in other jurisdictions, evidence may be offered that would show that the conviction would not be a crime in New York state. The Committee also may limit the number of witnesses whose testimony will be received, as well as the length of time any witness will be permitted to testify. Respondent has the right cross-examine witnesses and examine evidence produced against him. A summary of the Department of Health Hearing Rules is enclosed. Pursuant to Section 301(5) of the State Administrative Procedure Act, the

Department, upon reasonable notice, will provide at no charge, a qualified interpreter of the deaf to interpret the proceedings to, and the testimony of, any deaf person.

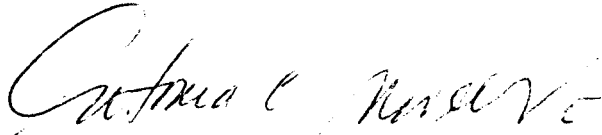
The hearing will proceed whether or not the Respondent appears at the hearing. Scheduled hearing dates are considered dates certain and, therefore, adjournment requests are not routinely granted. Requests for adjournments must be made in writing to the Administrative Law Judge's Office, Hedley Park Place, 433 River Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Troy, New York 12180 (518-402-0751), upon notice to the attorney for the Department of Health whose name appears below, and at least five days prior to the scheduled hearing date. Claims of court engagement will require detailed affidavits of actual engagement. Claims of illness will require medical documentation.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee shall make findings of fact, conclusions concerning the charges sustained or dismissed, and, in the event that any of the charges are sustained, a determination of the penalty or sanction to be imposed or appropriate action to be taken. Such determination may be reviewed by the Administrative Review Board for Professional Medical Conduct.

**THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A  
DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO  
PRACTICE MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE BE  
REVOKED OR SUSPENDED, AND/OR THAT  
YOU MAY BE FINED OR SUBJECT TO OTHER  
SANCTIONS SET FORTH IN NEW YORK PUBLIC  
HEALTH LAW SECTION 230-A. YOU ARE  
URGED TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY FOR THIS  
MATTER.**

DATED: Albany, New York

July 3, 2003



ANTONIA C. NOVELLO, M.D. M.P.H, Dr. P.H.,  
Commissioner

Inquires should be addressed to:

Robert Bogan  
Associate Counsel  
Office of Professional Medical Conduct  
433 River Street - Suite 303  
Troy, New York 12180  
(518) 402-0828

STATE OF NEW YORK : DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

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IN THE MATTER  
OF  
BRUCE M. FORESTER, M.D.  
CO-03-02-0804-A

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STATEMENT  
OF  
CHARGES

BRUCE M. FORESTER, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York state on July 18, 1966, by the issuance of license number 097028 by the New York State Education Department.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

A. On or about October 15, 2002, in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Respondent was found guilty, based on a plea of guilty, of one (1) count of Health Care Fraud, in violation of 18 USC 1347 and 2, a Class C felony, and twelve (12) counts of False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters, in violation of 18 USC 1035(a) and 2, a Class D felony, and on or about March 28, 2003, was sentenced to one (1) month confinement, two (2) years supervised release with conditions upon release from confinement, to include five (5) months home confinement, a \$10,000.00 fine, \$15,013.28 restitution, and a \$120.00 special assessment.

**SPECIFICATION**

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(a)(ii) by having been convicted of committing an act constituting a crime under federal law, in that Petitioner charges:

1. The facts in Paragraph A.

DATED: *July 3*, 2003  
Albany, New York

*Peter D. Van Buren*  
PETER D. VAN BUREN  
Deputy Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HEARING RULES

(Pursuant to Section 301 SAPA)

The following items are addressed by the Uniform Hearing Procedures Rules of the New York State Department of Health:

Applicability

Definitions

Notice of Hearing

Adjournment

Answer or Responsive Pleading

Amendment of Pleadings

Service of Papers

Discovery

Hearing Officer/Pre-Hearing Conference

Pre-Hearing Conference

Stipulations and Consent Orders

The Hearing

Hearing Officer's Report

Exceptions

Final Determination and Order

Waiver of Rules

Time Frames

Disqualification for Bias

The exact wording of the rules is found at 10 NYCRR Part 51 of Volume 10 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations. Each of the above items may be summarized as following:

51.1 Applicability. These regulations apply to most hearings conducted by the Department of Health.

51.2 Definitions.

1. "Commissioner" means Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health.
2. "CPLR" means Civil Practice Law and Rules.
3. "Department" means New York State Department of Health.
4. "Hearing Officer" means the person appointed to preside at the hearing or the person designated as administrative officer pursuant to Public Health Law Section 230.
5. "Party" means all persons designated as petitioner, respondent or intervenor.
6. "Report" means the Hearing Officer's summary of the proceeding and written recommendation or the findings, conclusions and determination of the hearing committee pursuant to Public Health Law Section 230.

51.3 The Department's Notice of Hearing and/or Statement of Charges should be served at least 15 days prior to the first hearing date, specify time, place and date(s) and should contain the basis for the proceeding. Pursuant to Public Health Law §230, the Notice of Hearing must, additionally, specify that the licensee shall file a written answer.

51.4 Adjournment. Only the Hearing Officer may grant an adjournment and only after he/she has consulted with both parties. In hearings pursuant to Public Health Law Section 230, an adjournment on the initial day may be granted by the hearing committee.

51.5 Answer or Responsive Pleading. A party may serve an answer or response to the allegations of the Department. In matters governed by PHL §230, the licensee is required to file a written answer to each of the charges and allegations of the Department. Under the law, any charge or allegation which is not so answered shall be deemed admitted.

51.6 Amendment to Pleadings. A party may usually amend papers if no substantial prejudice results by leave of the Hearing Officer.

51.7 Service of Papers. Except for the Notice of Hearing and/or Statement of Charges, all papers may be served by ordinary mail.

51.8 Disclosure. Generally, there is no disclosure of any kind and the Hearing Officer cannot require it, unless all parties agree. If agreed to, the Hearing Officer will ensure all parties proceed in accordance with their agreement. However, in a hearing in which revocation of a license or permit is sought or possible, a party may demand in writing that another party disclose the names of witnesses, document or other evidence such other party intends to offer at the hearing. A demand for such disclosure must be served at least 10 days prior to the first scheduled hearing date. Disclosure or a statement that the party has nothing to disclose must be made at least 7 days before the first scheduled hearing date. A party that determines to present witnesses or evidence not previously disclosed must supplement its disclosure as soon as is practicable. The Hearing Officer may, upon good cause shown, modify the times for demands for and response to disclosure or allow a party not to disclose or limit, condition or regulate the use of information disclosed and may preclude the introduction of evidence not disclosed pursuant to a demand.

51.9 Hearing Officer. He/she presides over the hearing and has the authority to ensure it is conducted in an orderly fashion. He/she may also order the parties to meet before the hearing to discuss the procedure. He/she does not have the authority to remove testimony from the transcript and/or dismiss charges unless authorized by delegation.

51.10 Stipulation and Consent and Surrender Orders. At any



time prior to a final order, parties may resolve all or any issues by stipulation. An order issued pursuant to a stipulation has the same force and effect as one issued after hearing.

51.11 The Hearing. A party may have an attorney represent him or her. Failure to appear may result in an adverse ruling. A hearing may be combined with or separated from another hearing depending on whether such action will result in delay, cost or prejudice. While the rules of evidence as applied in a courtroom are not observed, witnesses must be sworn or give an affirmation and each party has the right to present its case and to cross-examine. The Department has broad discretion to place documents into evidence. A record of the proceeding must be made. In enforcement cases, the Department has the burden of proof and of going forward. In matters relating to neglect or abuse of patients under Public Health Law Section 2803-d, the Hearing Officer may not compel disclosure of the identity of the person making the report or who provided information in the investigation of the report.

Complaints relating to Public health Law Section 230 may not be introduced into evidence by either party and their production cannot be required by the Hearing Officer.

Claims that a hearing has been unreasonably delayed is treated as an affirmative defense (Section 51.5) or as part of the claimant's case. The burden of going forward and of proof are on the claimant.

A verbatim record of the proceeding shall be made by any means determined by the Department. The record shall include notice of hearing and any statement of charges, responsive pleadings, motions, rulings, transcript or recording, exhibits, stipulations, briefs, any objections filed, any decision, determination, opinion, order or report rendered.

51.12 Hearing Officer or Hearing Committee Report. The report or determination should be submitted within 60 days of completion of the hearing.

51.13 Filing of Exceptions. Within 30 days of the date of a copy of the report of the Hearing Officer and proposed order any party may submit exceptions to said report and proposed order

to the Supervising Administrative Law Judge. On notice of all parties, a party may request, before the expiration of the exception period, the Supervising Law Judge to extend the exception period. All parties have the opportunity to state their position on the extension on the record. Extensions may be granted on good cause shown; however, they are not granted to allow a party to respond to exceptions already filed. Pursuant to PHL 230(c), a notice of request for review of the Hearing Committee determination must be served upon the ARB within 14 days of service of the determination. All parties have 30 days thereafter to submit briefs and 7 days from service of a brief to submit a reply.

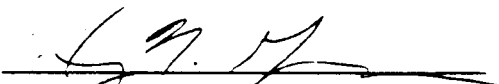
51.14 Final Determination Order. The hearing process ends when an order is issued by the Commissioner or his designee or the appropriate board of council. The order should state a basis for the decision. Each party receives a copy of the order.

51.15 Waiver of Rules. These rules and regulations may be dispensed with by agreement and/or consent.

51.16 Establishment, Construction, Rate Hearings. Hearings involving any of these issues have time limits concerning the issuance of notices of hearing of 365 days of receipt by the Department of a request for hearing.

51.17 Disqualification for Bias. Bias shall disqualify a Hearing Officer and/or a committee member in hearings governed by Public health Law Section 230. The party seeking disqualification must submit to the hearing officer an affidavit pursuant to SAPA Section 303. Mere allegations are insufficient. The Hearing Officer rules on the request.

DATED: Albany, New York  
March 20, 1997

  
HENRY M. GREENBERG  
General Counsel