



Cornu-Labat's license suspended by state health

State declares that former QVMC surgeon must go through with mental examination

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The Washington Department of Health has suspended Dr. Gaston Cornu-Labat's license to practice medicine until he complies with a state-ordered mental examination.

The ruling was made by the state's Medical Quality Assurance Commission following a hearing conducted on April 1.

During that hearing, Cornu-Labat tried to present evidence backing up his claims that the requirement to undergo the examination was part of a conspiracy to discredit him because he brought to light problems at Quincy Valley Medical Center.

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The board did not allow him to present those concerns at the hearing, because the hearing was only to determine whether or not he had complied with the state's requirement to go through with the evaluation, which was ordered by the

state last year.

Cornu-Labat also tried to present into evidence the results of four mental-health evaluations that he had commissioned, but the state would not accept those evaluations because they were not performed by a provider approved by the Medical Quality Assurance Commission.

"The respondent did not attend an examination with a commission-approved provider," stated the commission's order. "The respondent refused to do so as a matter of principle."

The Department of Health became involved in Cornu-Labat's case shortly after he was fired from Quincy Valley Medical Center in 2009 for refusing to go through the Washington Physicians Health Program, which evaluates and treats physicians privately for mental or physical conditions so they can return to their jobs.

Cornu-Labat himself submitted his case to the Department of Health and asked it to rule on the matter, stating that he would abide by the state's findings.

On Sept. 24, 2010, the department ruled that he would be required to undergo a mental-health examination in order to practice medicine. Cornu-Labat said that he did not undergo the examination, which would be paid for by the state, as a matter of principal.

That order was upheld by the Medical Quality Assurance Commission when it issued the ruling on April 29.

"The respondent's license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the state of Washington is suspended, pending his completion of the examination," the order stated.

Cornu-Labat did not respond until well after our deadline. His response in on page A4.