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Fake doctor, Rick Van Thiel, held on \$1 million bond

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LAS VEGAS (KSNV News3LV) - The man accused of performing medical procedures out of his trailer told a judge Tuesday he's not the person identified in court documents.

Rick Van Thiel is facing a slew of felonies for practicing medicine without a license.

"For the record I'm not Mr. Van Thiel," he said. "Who are you," Judge Ann Zimmerman asked.

"I am the living sentient human, man that goes by capital R lower case i-c-k capital V lower case a-n capital T lower case h-i-e-l and I'm here on special appearance but I'm not Mr. Van Thiel or the all caps name on the amended criminal complaint."

This came at the end of the preliminary hearing for Van Thiel. During that hearing prosecutors convinced a judge to let them move forward to a trial.

Van Thiel is charged with multiple felonies of performing medical procedures out of a trailer.

YouTube videos of Van Thiel show him getting ready for a medical procedure.

In a jailhouse interview, Van Thiel said he had learned medicine from books and YouTube videos.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Marc DiGiacomo told the judge this investigation has become larger.

"There's now three deaths associated with Mr. Van Thiel, 90 victims and I can't count the number of sexual assault counts he is now facing," DiGiacomo said.

Van Thiel is being held on \$1 million bail. It was an amount his attorney tried to reduce.

Steven Lisk says bail for the charges Van Thiel is currently facing should be somewhere around

\$20,000, not \$1 million.

"She set bail at 50 times that. At one million dollars. This is something that is just grossly inappropriate," Lisk said.

In court Zimmerman said she can't allow Van Thiel back in to the community.

"I think he's a clear and present danger to our community and I would hate for him to start up whatever he was doing in his trailer," Zimmerman said.

That was followed by another comment by Van Thiel.

"Ma'am that's speculation," he said. "What's speculation," Zimmerman replied.

"That I'm a danger to the community," Van Thiel said.

Zimmerman dismissed Van Thiel's comment and let bail stand at \$1 million. He'll be back in court later this month.

Prosecutors say 3 deaths, 90 victims and several sexual assaults associated with "Dr Rick."

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