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Doc arrested on Ohio sex indictment

- LANCE BENZEL Of The Gazette Staff
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A physician was arrested Thursday morning at Billings Clinic, accused of fleeing from allegations he committed a sexual offense in Ohio.

Dr. Patrick E. Muffley, 37, is a fugitive from justice in Gallia County, Ohio, the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office said in court documents Thursday.

Muffley, an obstetrician/gynecologist, is wanted on the charge of gross sexual imposition, and law enforcement authorities in Gallia County are seeking to have him extradited.

While details of the alleged offense were not provided, the charge applies when a person compels another to submit to sexual activity under the threat of force, or when the victim is impaired by drugs or alcohol, under the age of 13 or unable to give consent for another reason.

The doctor was indicted by a grand jury in Gallia County, and details of the alleged crime remain sealed, said Gallia County Sheriff's Lt. John Williams. He declined to specify when the indictment was obtained and said he could provide no further information.

Muffley, who previously worked at Holzer Clinic in Gallipolis, Ohio, was hired at Billings Clinic in May, said hospital spokesman Luke Kobold. A full background check was conducted before Muffley was hired and turned up no evidence of the criminal charge or anything else of concern, he said.

"This is a shock for us," Kobold said.

Muffley is on administrative leave pending an internal review.

He was taken into custody about 11:30 a.m. at the hospital, said Yellowstone County Detention Sgt. Hans DeMello.

In an appearance before Justice Court Judge Pedro Hernandez on Thursday, Muffley was ordered held without bond at the county jail pending a hearing in District Court on Monday.

He will be given the option of requesting an extradition hearing or else waiving the hearing and volunteering to be taken to Ohio to answer for the charges.

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