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DOCTOR LOSES LICENSE FOR UNNECESSARY ABORTIONS

AP

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NORFOLK, Va., July 27— An executive committee of the state Board of Medicine today suspended the license of Dr. Chris Simopoulos, who has been charged with performing abortions on women who were not pregnant.

The committee unanimously agreed to suspend the license "with a notice of hearing," said Eugenia Dorson, the committee head.

She said no date had been set for the hearing, in which the board could clear Dr. Simopoulos, continue his suspension or revoke his state license.

Man's Urine in One Test

On Thursday, Dr. Simopoulos, the owner of the American Women's Clinic in Norfolk, appeared in court on a charge of attempting to obtain money falsely.

Officials say that more than a dozen women were wrongly told they were pregnant, including one who had submitted a man's urine for tests. Dr. Simopoulos's attorney contended that the problem was misdiagnosis.

Dr. Simopoulos, 46 years old, was arrested at the clinic Wednesday as he prepared to perform an abortion on an undercover policewoman who was not pregnant, the police said.

The investigation followed inquiries by the Tidewater chapter of the National Organization for Women and The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star.

'Doctors Are Only Human'

After today's hearing, Dr. Simopoulos' attorney, Chris A. Christie, said, "There's a tremendous difference between medical misdiagnosis and a criminal intentional, fraudulent act." "Doctors are

only human, not only this doctor but many doctors," he said. "If you consider a misdiagnosis as a criminal act, there would be a lot of problems in the medical field."

A report by the manufacturer of the tests, Organon Diagnostics of West Orange, N.J., said the chances of a false positive result were small.

At least four policewomen had urine tests at the clinic on Monday and Tuesday, and three were told they were pregnant, said Capt. W. A. Williamson of the vice and narcotics squad. Testing elsewhere showed the three were not pregnant, he said.

One policewoman returned to the clinic Wednesday for a physical examination and an abortion. As Dr. Simopoulos prepared to perform the procedure, the officer stopped him, called another officer from the lobby and arrested the doctor.