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Former Centralia Gynecologist Scrutinized for Sex, Abortion

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A doctor who practiced gynecology and obstetrics at Centralia Women's Center has been charged by the Washington Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery Board with unprofessional conduct for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a patient, which resulted in a pregnancy, and terminating the pregnancy without consent or evidence the pregnancy wouldn't be successful.

The allegations levied against John Eiland, a graduate of Centralia High School, include caring for the patient when there were complications with the pregnancy and failing to keep adequate documentation of the treatment.

The charges were brought against Eiland in February by the Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery Board.

However, they stem from alleged actions that took place between Eiland and "Patient A" — whose identity remains confidential — between August 2005 and May 2008.

Eiland, who now practices at Grays Harbor Women's Clinic in Aberdeen, could not immediately be reached for comment.

According to the Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery Board's charges, Eiland was granted credentials and hired by Providence Centralia Hospital in 2004. He worked at a Providence-owned women's clinic at all times relevant to the allegations.

Patient A became a patient at the clinic in 2004 and was hired there as a medical assistant in 2005. By August she and Eiland became romantically involved and by October their relationship had become sexual.

In an interview with a state Department of Health investigator, Eiland admitted to having sexual intercourse with Patient A at the clinic and sexual contact with her at her residence.

By April 2006 she became pregnant with Eiland's child.

By June 3, 2006, Patient A reported to Eiland that she had pain in her right side and spotting. Eiland did not refer her to her primary care provider and examined her himself by ultrasound.

Eiland told the investigator that he had not seen evidence of an intrauterine pregnancy during his examination. Instead, he was concerned of an ectopic pregnancy and recommended immediate surgery.

Eiland did not document the exam and ultrasound. Nor did he document a plan of care or any care after the exam in order to keep his relationship with Patient A a secret, Eiland told the investigator.

For surgery, Patient A followed Eiland to Providence Centralia Hospital in separate cars.

Eiland discussed with Patient A the possibility of miscarriage, saying there was a 20 percent chance following anesthesia. The patient signed a consent form for an exploratory laparoscopy and a possible dilation and termination of pregnancy if medically necessary.

The consent form signed by both Eiland and the patient was not witnessed.

Eiland found no evidence of an ectopic pregnancy and then performed a surgical abortion without evidence the pregnancy would be unsuccessful.

Eiland said in a written statement dated Nov. 21, 2008, that the pregnancy termination was performed to save his patient from physical and emotional trauma of a possible miscarriage, noting increased bleeding during the laparoscopy, yet it was not documented in his operative report.

Eiland admitted Patient A to the hospital overnight and discharged her on June 4, 2006.

Their sexual relationship continued until May 2008.

According to the Department of Health, Eiland responded to the charges on Feb. 25. The department is expected to schedule a hearing on the related charges following status conference in the future.

Eiland did not respond to a message left for him Tuesday morning at Grays Harbor Women's Clinic. A receptionist who said he was not working today confirmed that he had received the message.

The Department of Health said Eiland has requested to settle with the board the sanctions levied against him.

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