

**MINUTES**

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**December 6, 2007**

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**Panel: Zanolli, Lovelady, Wells**

**Contested Case Hearing**

**Joseph E. Rich, MD**

On December 6, 2007 a panel of the Board composed of Drs. Zanolli and Lovelady and Ms. Irene Wells, Public Member concluded their work in the contested case in the matter of Joseph Rich, M.D. Dr. Rich was not present but represented by legal counsel, Mr. Dan Warlick of the Nashville Bar. Mr. Shiva Bozarth represented the State. The Honorable Tom Stovall, Administrative Law Judge presided.

After hearing testimony over numerous days from both the state and Dr. Rich, the Board deliberated and determined that Joseph Rich, M.D.'s medical license should be suspended for one year effective February 1, 2008. The effective date of February 1st allows Dr. Rich an opportunity to transfer his medical records to the patients or other providers. During that time period he can not do Chelation, hydrogen peroxide treatments or prescribe methadone. During the one year suspension he must get a VCAP evaluation and have the recommendations forwarded to the BME. He must take a 40 hour comprehensive course in pain management and pay costs. No civil penalties were assessed because costs are believed to be quite substantial. Dr Rich must appear before the Board pursuant to an order of compliance not earlier than February 1, 2009 before the Board can consider lifting the suspension. The Board's vote was unanimous.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Examiners on January 22, 2008.