

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor
Camden, New Jersey 08101



Paul J. Fishman, U.S. Attorney

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Assistant U.S. Attorney:
MATTHEW J. SKAHILL
856-968-4929

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Winslow Doctor Charged with Selling Prescriptions for Oxycodone
Without a Legitimate Medical Purpose

(More)

Greg Reinert, PAO
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233
973-645-2888

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CAMDEN – A Winslow doctor made an initial appearance in federal court today on a criminal Complaint for writing prescriptions for oxycodone without a legitimate medical purpose in exchange for cash payments, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

The Complaint, which was issued on Nov. 13, 2009, alleges that from at least as early as March 2009, Dr. Ronald Rahman, 59, distributed and dispensed oxycodone, namely “Percocet,” “Oxycontin” and “Roxicodone,” without a legitimate medical purpose and outside the usual course of professional practice.

The defendant made his first appearance in federal court today before U.S. Magistrate Joel Schneider. The defendant, who is being held at the Camden County Correctional Facility on pending state charges, consented to detention pending trial.

In March 2009, law enforcement officers developed information from a confidential source (“CS”) regarding the alleged drug distribution activities of Rahman, according to the complaint. The CS told officers that he obtained prescriptions from Rahman in exchange for cash. The CS explained that he would typically meet with Rahman and provide him a list of names and preferred medications, according to the Complaint. Allegedly, Rahman would then write out the prescriptions on his New York State prescription blanks for each the different names, without ever performing examinations.

According to the Complaint, the CS cooperated with law enforcement authorities and made three separate controlled purchases of prescriptions from Rahman between April 2009 and June 2009. The Complaint alleges that the CS purchased a total of 30 prescriptions for \$3,850.

Rahman was arrested on June 11 by police officers with Clementon Police Department, moments after he completed the third and final transaction with the CS. At that time, Rahman was in possession of the \$1,500 in cash that the CS had just paid him in exchange for 12 prescriptions.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office adopted the case for federal prosecution.

According to the Complaint, Rahman is a physician who was previously registered and licensed to practice medicine in the states of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. However, by Jan. 2, 2009, Rahman’s registration with the State of New York had lapsed. Rahman’s license to practice medicine in New Jersey expired in June 2005 and his Pennsylvania license expired in December 2000. Rahman, however, is a practitioner registered with the DEA, which authorized him to handle and distribute controlled substances in the course of professional practice and research and for legitimate medical purposes.

Despite the charges set forth in the complaint, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

The charge, distribution and possession with intent to distribute and dispensing oxycodone, a Schedule II controlled substance, without a legitimate medical purpose and outside the usual course of professional practice, carries a maximum statutory sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1 million.

In determining an actual sentence, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Special Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, Investigators with the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs, under the direction of N.J. Attorney General Anne Milgram, and Police Officers with the Police Departments of Clementon and Waterford, for the investigation leading to the criminal Complaint.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew J. Skahill of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Brian O'Malley, Esq.