

DR. KITAKUFE CONVICTED OF FRAUD, CONSPIRACY, AND TRAFFICKING

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On August 29, 2007, Dr. John Kitakufe admitted participating in an illegal drug ring, costing the Ontario health care system more than \$750,000.00. Dr. Kitakufe, a Toronto family doctor, was arrested on September 6, 2006 and later charged with conspiracy to defraud the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, defrauding the Ministry, and conspiracy to traffic in the addictive narcotic-based painkiller, OxyContin. The investigation found that prescription narcotics were being illegally obtained and diverted to street level drug trade. Dr. Kitakufe was accepting payment to issue prescriptions for narcotics that were not medically necessary to persons on Ontario drug benefit plans.

Sentencing will most likely take place in October 2007, with jail time expected to be set at five to seven years.

This is not Dr. Kitakufe's first transgression. In 1986, Dr. Kitakufe was convicted of medicaid fraud in Illinois. He subsequently fled the United States and set up a practice in Ontario. He was extradited back to the United States 13 years later in 1999, and served 14 months in a federal penitentiary. He has undergone hearings at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario in connection with this crime and had his certificate of registration suspended for a period of 6 months in 2002.

According to The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Dr. Kitakufe presently remains an active physician, however his privileges are restricted.