

North Union pill-mill doctor sentenced to one year in prison

By Mark Hofmann mhofmann@heraldstandard.com Aug 3, 2017

A former Fayette County cardiologist who pleaded guilty in federal court on two of 237 counts of running a pill mill in North Union Township was sentenced to one year in prison.

Dr. Dominic Dileo, 68, of Uniontown pleaded guilty in April to distributing Xanax and conspiracy to distribute Suboxone in 2015 when he acted as a doctor at Addiction Specialists Inc. (ASI), a former methadone clinic in North Union Township.

On Wednesday, before U.S. District Judge Nora Barry Fischer, Dileo was sentenced to serve 12 months and one day in federal prison. He's scheduled to surrender on Sept. 13.

The remaining 235 counts against Dileo were dismissed.

This is the second time Dileo will do time in federal prison for drug-related charges.

Nearly 20 years ago, he was sentenced to 10 years and one month in federal prison for writing illegal narcotic prescriptions and taking kickbacks at his medical supply business to fund extramarital affairs. Dileo lost his medical license at the time, but it was reinstated in 2005. It was suspended again when the new charges were filed.

Fischer's recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons included that Dileo be incarcerated at a detention facility near to Pittsburgh, be provided with a mental health assessment and any available mental health counseling and treatment, be provided with a job while in prison to pay for his financial obligations and be provided with a physical and any available medical treatment for his physical conditions.

Dileo's attorney, Michael Machen, had previously filed motions to delay Dileo's sentencing because of health concerns, including, but not limited to, hand surgery, a kidney stone and severe abdominal pain.

Following his release from prison, Dileo will be placed on supervised release for three years and is to perform 150 hours of community service.

During Wednesday's sentencing, a total of eight witnesses spoke on behalf of the defense, including Samuel J. Davis, Monsignor Michael W. Matusak, Dr. Charles D. Machesky, Tina Marie Hoy, Diane Lynn Butler, Mary Katherine Korona, Francis W. Korona and Diane Kiproff.

Dileo and Rosalind Sugarmann, who operated the clinic, were charged with 19 counts of unlawfully dispensing Suboxone, and Dileo was charged with 194 counts of supplying Suboxone to Sugarmann on a weekly basis from January 2013 until early July 2015.

Sugarmann was sentenced to serve one year in prison last week on charges of healthcare fraud and unlawful dispensing and distributing of a schedule three controlled substance.

In April, ASI's clinical director, Brandon S. Eicher of Smithfield, was sentenced to serve five years on probation, with six months on house arrest on the charge of health care fraud.

ASI counselor Lou Polito of Uniontown pleaded guilty in December for illegal distribution of Suboxone and is scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 28.