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## Four patients file lawsuit against doctor

*Posted On Thu. Jul 20th, 2017 By : The Courier*

By EILEEN MCCLORY  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. James Gideon, a Bluffton rheumatologist who is facing sexual imposition charges, is being sued by four of his patients.

The lawsuits were filed in Allen County Common Pleas Court in Lima on Monday.

The suits include allegations that Gideon, 70, asked the women to remove their bras at his office because he claimed the bras were causing them pain. The suits also claim Gideon removed the women's pants and underwear in order to administer shots, touched their breasts and buttocks, and kissed two of the women. Gideon also gave rings to some of the women as

they left his Bluffton office, the lawsuits claim.

The accusations contained in the lawsuits appear to be similar to the criminal charges of sexual imposition that have been filed against Gideon in Lima Municipal Court. He has pleaded not guilty to seven misdemeanor sexual imposition charges and the cases are scheduled for pretrial hearings Aug. 22.

Gideon's medical license was suspended June 14 by the State Medical Board.

Documents filed in the criminal case indicate that he admitted to a state investigator on May 16 that he had inappropriately touched patients during examinations.

A medical board hearing on Gideon's license suspension has not yet been scheduled.

After he was contacted Wednesday, Gideon provided a written statement to The Courier related to the civil cases, the criminal charges and his suspended medical license.

"I have not yet had a trial on the criminal charges nor a hearing regarding the medical board's action," he said in the statement. "When I do get an opportunity to fully respond to the patients' complaints, I believe that I will be fully exonerated. Until that time, I hope that people will reserve judgment regarding what happened."

Three of the women are not named in a lawsuit filed by Charles E. Boyk Law Offices, Toledo. A fourth woman, Theresa Wade of Tiffin, filed a separate suit through attorney Michael Bell of Toledo.

Wesley D. Merillat, of Charles E. Boyk Law Offices, the lead attorney in the case, said the experiences the women went through were humiliating. He said while Gideon is facing charges in Lima Municipal Court, and the State Medical Board has revoked his license, there had not been an opportunity for the women to seek damages directly.

Merillat said Gideon knew the three women his law office is representing were undergoing counseling for anxiety and depression, and he knew at least one of them had a history of sexual and physical abuse.

"He invited trust and took advantage," Merillat said. "We would hope that Dr. Gideon would seek to resolve these cases rather than draw them out and litigate them."

Bell's office did not return a request for comment on Wednesday.

All of the women are seeking in excess of \$25,000 in damages.

McClory: 419-427-8497

[Send an E-mail to Eileen McClory](#)



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