



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
TODD SPITZER



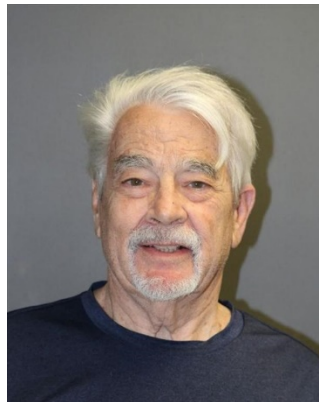
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 9, 2024
Case #: 24HF0871

PRESS RELEASE

Greg Risling
Public Information and Affairs Administrator
Office: 714-347-8435, Cell: 657-303-5239
media@ocdapa.org

Kimberly Edds
Director of Public Affairs
Office: 714-347-8405, Cell: 714-504-1917
media@ocdapa.org



Dr. John Carl Hoefs

Authorities Asking for Public's Help in Identifying Additional Potential Victims of Orange County Hepatologist Charged with Sexual Battery of Female Patients

SANTA ANA, Calif. – Authorities are asking for the public's help in identifying additional potential victims of a 79-year-old hepatologist charged with groping two of his female patients when he grabbed their breasts during medical exams at a Hoag affiliated medical office in Irvine.

Dr. John Carl Hoefs, 79, of Irvine, has been charged with seven felony counts of sexual battery. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in state prison if convicted of all counts.

In addition to practicing at Hoag Health Center in Irvine, Dr. Hoefs has been affiliated with the University of California, Irvine, and the Liver Specialty Center in Irvine.

Beginning in 2020, Hoefs is accused of assaulting a female patient suffering from a liver condition on five

separate occasions by folding over her medical gown, exposing her breasts and grabbing them during a medical visit. Each time the patient tried to cover herself, Hoefs is accused of moving the gown and exposing her breasts for the remainder of the exam.

Hoefs also is accused of groping another female patient's breasts during an exam in November 2016 and again in October 2017.

Hoefs was arrested on May 3, 2024, and released after posting a \$500,000 bond. He is scheduled to be arraigned on June 13, 2024, in Department H1 at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach.

"Sexual predators come in all forms and in all walks of life – even ones wearing white doctors' coats," said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. "Women seeking potentially life-saving medical treatment should not be subjected to sexual abuse by the medical professional they have entrusted with their lives. This blatant abuse of trust will not be tolerated."

A criminal complaint sets forth criminal accusations against a defendant who is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Anyone with additional information about Hoefs' activities or any additional potential victims is asked to call Irvine Police Department Detective Rebecca Steen at 949-724-7170 or email rsteen@cityofirvine.org.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Juliet Oliver of the Sexual Assault Unit is prosecuting this case.

###