

# Former Ukiah surgeon Brian Cable pleads no contest in drug fraud case

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A former Ukiah surgeon pleaded no contest on Monday in Mendocino County Superior Court to six felony charges of unlawfully prescribing controlled substances, according to District Attorney spokesman Mike Geniella.

Brian Marcel Cable, 49, of Redwood Valley, will avoid going to trial with the pleas, and was referred to the adult probation department for a background study and sentencing recommendation.

He agreed to enter no contest pleas to six felony charges in return for dismissal of five counts charged under alternative theories for the same conduct covered by the six felonies, Geniella said.

Cable will be sentenced June 5 and faces up to six years in prison. However, the court may opt to grant Cable up to five years of supervised probation, with a jail sentence of up to 365 days as a term of probation, according to Geniella.

Ukiah Valley Medical Center personnel discovered Cable's alleged involvement in 2013 and informed Ukiah Police Department officials of the suspected allegations, who during the course of the investigation suspected Cable of prescription fraud involving Hydrocodone, a pain medication.

Part of Cable's no contest pleas were for writing out prescriptions to people who were not under his care, in addition to securing the drug for his own use, Geniella said.

Despite the pleas on Monday, Cable still faces action by the California Medical Board, said DA David Eyster. Cable has not been able to practice medicine since his arrest in 2013, and has since lost all hospital privileges along with being forced to surrender his prescription certificate to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Cable's attorney, Keith Faulder, noted Cable has completed an inpatient drug treatment program, and is said to be participating in an outpatient treatment and monitoring program since his arrest.

Geniella said a co-defendant, Kathryn Lynn Brown, 55, of Potter Valley, also entered a no contest plea on Monday to a misdemeanor charge of filing a fraudulent claim for health care benefits in connection with the Cable case.

Brown was sentenced to two days in jail, and placed on two years court probation. Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman ordered Brown to also perform 50 hours of community service. As a term of probation, Brown is now subject to search on demand of any peace officer, according to Geniella.