**Dr. George Doodnaught Guilty of 21 sex assaults of Patients**

Summary:

A Toronto Court has found Dr. George Doodnaught (an anaesthesiologist) guilty of sexually assaulting twenty-one women while they were under conscious sedation in a hospital. Doodnaught was accused of kissing, foundling, and preforming other sexual acts on patients at the New York Hospital during a four year period that ended in 2010, leading through a trail that ran with many adjournments through most of 2013. Together there were more than enough women (between the ages 25-75) that found him guilty beyond reasonable doubt. Doodnaught’s lawyer argued that the women were actually having vivid dreams while under conscious sedation and that it would have been physically impossible for George to molest them, but Judge David McCombs of the superior court of Ontario Rejected those arguments. “The Sedation without a doubt affected the ability of these women to perceive and remember events accurately,” McCombs Stated. “However I have found that they were conscious and aware enough during significant parts of their surgeries to recall the shocking and abhorrent events.” Dr. George Mashour testified that the odds of the women having dreams of themselves being molested due to the drugs given by Doodnaught would be vanishingly rare. If the drugs were to blame, he wouldn’t expect them all to relate to a single doctor. Doodnaught was out on bail, but he was due back in court on December 13, 2013, when the court will set a sentencing date

**Criminal Law:**

This Article deals with Criminal Law because Dr. George Doodnaught preformed twenty-one sexual assaults on twenty-one different women. Section 271 of the Criminal Code of Canada states that anyone who commits a sexual assault is guilty of (A) an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years and, if the complainant is under the age of 16 years, to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of one year; or (B) an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 18 months and, if the complainant is under the age of 16 years, to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of 90 days. (<http://yourlaws.ca/criminal-code-canada/271-sexual-assault>) Doctor George Doodnaught took advantage of these women while under conscious sedation and sexually assaulted each one, which is why he went back to court on December 13, 2013

**Article Rights Violated**:

Article #5- “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” Doodnaught sexually assaulted twenty-one women while they were unconscious. Doodnaught was never given permission, and took advantage of these women when they couldn’t defend themselves.

**Question**

Do you think that Doodnaught’s Lawyer had a valid point when he stated that the women could have been having vivid dreams while under conscious sedation? If you were Judge McCombs, how would you have responded to such an argument?

**Works Cited**

<http://yourlaws.ca/criminal-code-canada/271-sexual-assault>)

[**http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/dr-george-doodnaught-victim-recalls-anesthesiologist-s-attack-1.2559010**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/dr-george-doodnaught-victim-recalls-anesthesiologist-s-attack-1.2559010)

[**http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/**](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/)