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Prosecutors said N.J. doctor was corrupt, but judge dropped charges. Now he's suing for \$100M.

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Three years ago, a statewide healthcare investigation ensnared Terry Ramnanan.

The 67-year-old Paramus doctor was accused of paying a chiropractor illegal kickbacks in exchange for patient referrals, and Ramnanan faced new charges the year after when officials accused him of fraudulently billing insurance companies.

But a judge later dismissed all ten charges against Ramnanan, and on Wednesday the doctor filed a lawsuit saying state officials falsified evidence that destroyed his career, and he asked for \$100 million to make up for the “utterly baseless criminal prosecution.”

“He’s been devastated by this,” Jon Norinsberg, Ramnanan’s attorney, told NJ Advance Media. “Who does he go to to get his reputation back?”

The lawsuit accuses investigators in the state attorney general’s office, as well as two participating chiropractors, of violating Ramnanan’s civil rights and fabricating evidence, among other charges.

A spokesman for state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal declined comment.

Bergen County Superior Court Judge Robert Vinci slammed prosecutors last year when he threw out the charges, according to a court transcript included in the lawsuit.

Officials misled and deceived a grand jury in an effort to charge Ramnanan, the judge said, and “the State lost sight of its obligation to do justice and instead sought to indict the defendant on the most serious charges it could present.”

Vinci concluded “that the State intentionally subverted the grand jury process resulting in a grand jury presentation that was fundamentally unfair,” according to the transcript.

The judge did give prosecutors the option of re-introducing some charges, but no new charges were ever filed, according to Norinsberg and online court records.

Part of the case against Ramnanan hinged on a chiropractor named Ronald Hayek.

Hayek did admit to accepting kickbacks in exchange for patient referrals, according to state officials, and he pleaded guilty to bribery and money laundering, among other charges.

Yet Ramnanan was never part of that scheme, the lawsuit alleges, and prosecutors even altered a document to make it appear that he was.

After the chiropractor began cooperating with investigators, he secretly recorded a conversation with Ramnanan. Hayek asked Ramnanan if he had told anyone about their patient referrals, and a transcript of the exchange shows the doctor saying he had not, according to the suit.

But Ramnanan actually responded to the question before the chiropractor had finished asking it, because the doctor thought he was being asked about rent checks, according to the lawsuit. Ramnanan paid Hayek rent, and the lawsuit includes copies of multiple \$600 checks.

In other words, the transcript makes it appear that Ramnanan was hiding criminal activity, while the recording itself is not clear, according to the lawsuit. Norinsberg declined to release a copy of the audio recording at this time.

Hayek used to run the Union Wellness Center. A voicemail message for Union Wellness said the facility was no longer open. A request for comment left at that number was not immediately returned, and a message left with a number listed for Hayek was also not immediately returned.

Ramnanan's medical license remains active, according to public records. The Upper Saddle River resident still operates the Interventional Spine and Pain facility in Paramus, but he has almost no patients, according to his lawyer.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court of New Jersey.