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## 66/06/06 Sheppard License May Be Restored

Cleveland Press

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# Sheppard License May Be Restored

*Press 6/16/66*

Today's Supreme Court ruling in the Sam Sheppard case may pave the way for his reinstatement as a licensed doctor of osteopathy.

The action could come as early as June 17, at the next meeting of the Ohio State Medical Board in Columbus, but it will not be automatic.

OSMB members will require a certified copy of the Supreme Court ruling which set aside Sheppard's conviction, and they will have to decide whether any other ground now exists for continuing the suspension of the former Bay Village osteopath's state license.

Dr. Sam's license was suspended indefinitely on Apr. 2, 1957. That action was based upon his conviction, said J. Dennis Burns, assistant Ohio attorney general assigned to the OSMB.

**"OBVIOUSLY,"** Burns told The Press today, if that felony conviction was reversed by the U. S. Supreme Court, then it no longer is a valid basis for suspension of Dr. Sheppard's license to practice medicine."

Burns said he expects Sheppard's lawyers to appeal to the OSMB for reconsider-

ation of his license status. With the appeal, Burns added, Sheppard's attorneys would be expected to include a certified copy of the high court ruling.

Such a document, Burns said, would automatically remove the conviction as a valid basis for continuing the license suspension.

**UNDER OHIO'S** medical practice laws, indictment for a felony is not mentioned as legal grounds for license suspension.

Neither do the laws spell out any legal requirement for re-examining a physician to determine his qualifications, after a lengthy absence from the practice of medicine.

Sheppard has not practiced medicine for some 12 years.

A spokesman for the OSMB said the board probably will reconsider Sheppard's status at the board's regular meeting June 17.