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**D.A. BROWN: PSYCHIATRIST CHARGED**  
**WITH PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**  
**ABOUT MEDICAL CONDITION ON LICENSE-RENEWAL FORM**

*Suffered Seizure that Resulted In Multi-Vehicle Queens Accident, Killing 3 People and Injuring Others*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 44-year-old St. Albans psychiatrist who was involved in a fatal multi-automobile accident after suffering a seizure in November 2006 has been charged with falsely reporting on his driver's license renewal form that he never had nor had he ever been treated for a medical condition that caused unconsciousness.

District Attorney Brown said, "As a medical practitioner and as a person suffering a seizure disorder, the defendant should have known better than to try and hide his medical condition. His failure to be totally truthful with state authorities was an error in judgment that allegedly, if not made, may have prevented three innocent people from losing their lives and may have spared the needless injury of several other people – including his two young children."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Alexander Juwah, 44, of 115-57 196<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Albans, Queens. The defendant, who at the time of the accident was employed at Harlem Hospital, was arraigned today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Steven Paynter on charges of Offering a False Instrument in the First- and Second-Degrees and a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws (False Statements, Alterations of Records or Substitution). The defendant, who faces up to four years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$5,000/\$1,500 bail and to return to court on August 22, 2007..

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant was driving a Ford Windstar southbound on Springfield Boulevard on the morning of Saturday, November 4, 2006, when he suffered a blackout and rear-ended a Mitsubishi Mirage before hitting two other vehicles and rolling over onto a Dodge Neon at the intersection of 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue, killing the three people in the car: Jesse Rutledge, 80, his son, Jesse Jr., 47, and Zetteleen Smith, 24, the girlfriend of the younger Rutledge. Seven other people – including the defendant and his two sons, Kelvin, 11, and Melvin, 3, – were also injured in the accident and taken to area hospitals.

The District Attorney said that although police ruled the crash an accident due to the defendant having suffered a seizure, it is alleged that a further investigation by his office and the NYPD's Accident Investigations Squad disclosed that on the defendant's 2003 New York State DMV Driver's License Renewal application he checked "NO" next to the question: "Have you had, or are you being treated for, any of the following – convulsive disorder, epilepsy, fainting or dizzy spells or any condition which causes unconsciousness – or has a previous disability worsened?" even though he was aware that prior to November 2003 – when the application was filed – that he suffered from seizures and was taking medication for the condition. The defendant is then alleged to have signed his name to the application despite the fact that the application states, "I state that the information I have given on this application is true to the best of my knowledge" and that making a false statement on the license application " . . . is a misdemeanor."

Assistant District Attorney Kristin J. Fraser, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Senior Trial Attorney, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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