

# Ottawa doctor loses Order of Canada after sperm mix-ups

**Dr. Norman Barwin, 71, becomes only 6th person to ever be removed from Order**

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A renowned Ottawa fertility doctor is only the sixth person to lose an Order of Canada appointment after he was reprimanded for mixing up sperm while artificially inseminating multiple women.

Dr. Norman Barwin received the Order of Canada for his work at the Broadview Fertility Clinic in Ottawa. He has also received a Queen's Jubilee Medal for his work over three decades.

But in January, Barwin was suspended from practising medicine for two months after pleading guilty to several allegations at a disciplinary hearing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

- [Fertility doctor suspended, admits to 4th sperm mixup](#)
- [Fertility doctor quits insemination after sperm mix-ups](#)
- [Conrad Black loses bid to address Order of Canada review body](#)
- [Drabinsky will fight to restore Order of Canada honour](#)

Barwin was [found guilty of professional misconduct](#) and it was determined he failed to maintain a professional standard of practice and failed to use the correct sperm in insemination cases.

According to the latest edition of the Canada Gazette released Friday, Gov. Gen. David Johnston approved the termination of Barwin's Order of Canada on July 5. The decision was originally made by the advisory council and sent to Johnston.

## Why one is terminated from Order of Canada

The advisory council shall consider the termination of a person's appointment to the Order of Canada if the person has been convicted of a criminal offence or the conduct of the person:

- Constitutes a significant departure from generally-recognized standards of public behaviour which is seen to undermine the credibility, integrity or relevance of the Order, or detracts from the original grounds upon which the appointment was based.
- Or has been subject to official sanction, such as a fine or a reprimand, by an adjudicating body, professional association or other organization.

The only other Canadians to be removed from the Order are Alan Eagleson, David Ahenakew, T. Sher Singh, Steve Fonyo, and Garth Drabinsky, who was [removed late last year](#).

Former media baron Conrad Black also [currently has his Order of Canada appointment under review](#).

## **4 women received wrong sperm, Barwin admitted**

In an agreed statement of facts, five women were involved in four artificial inseminations provided by Barwin between 1986 and 2007 and in all four cases DNA tests confirmed the women received the wrong sperm.

The College's panel heard Barwin inseminated four different Ottawa women with sperm from men who were not the chosen donors and he admitted to mistakenly mixing up the vials of sperm.

That led to two separate \$1-million lawsuits filed by women in 2004 and 2006 that were reported by CBC News in September 2010.

The two lawsuits against Barwin were settled out of court, so none of the allegations were ever proven until Barwin's admissions at the January hearing.

In February 2012, Barwin [volunteered to "permanently" stop](#) the "practice of artificial insemination and intrauterine insemination," according to his College of Physicians and Surgeons profile.

Barwin received his medical schooling at Queen's University in Northern Ireland. He is also a past member of the Canadian Fertility Society and the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada.

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