

Surgeon Who Participated in Zoom Court Hearing Fights Back: 'It's Been a Nightmare'

By: Alicia Gallegos

March 03, 2021

<https://www.medscape.com>

A Sacramento, California, plastic surgeon under fire for attending a virtual court hearing while in the operating room is telling his side of the story, saying the incident has been blown out of proportion and that his patient was never at risk.

Since the video of the court hearing went viral, Scott Green, MD, says he's been inaccurately portrayed in the media as an irresponsible physician who joined the virtual call as he was operating on a patient. An important fact missing from the narrative, says Green, is that his fellow, a licensed physician who has completed plastic surgery residency, was performing the closing of the facelift, and Green's involvement was over. Green had been observing before the court called, but the fellow was completely capable of finishing the surgery alone, Green told Medscape.

"In hindsight, clearly it would have been better to step out and take the call out in the hall or the break room, but to be perfectly frank, I was a little befuddled," said Green, 56. "I thought we'd be done, and I didn't know what to do. The courtroom is not my comfort zone. I uncomfortably stood there trying to hear what they were saying because the Zoom kept cutting in and out. They evidently said, 'This is going to be on YouTube,' but I didn't hear them say that."

Green says he expected to be finished with procedures by the time he was due in virtual court on February 25. The traffic court gave a window of 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for his Zoom hearing, and Green's last surgery was scheduled for 1:00 PM.

But surgeries were moving more slowly than usual that day, he says. His final case was wrapping up when staff ran frantically into the operating room and announced that the hearing had started, Green said. The doctor emphasized that he had finished his portion of the procedure when he set his electronic device down in the operating room and entered the virtual hearing.

At no time was patient safety or patient privacy compromised, said his attorney, Jeffrey Segal, MD, JD.

"He's a talented surgeon who is learning the rules of Zoom etiquette, but at no point in no way was patient safety or patient confidentiality at issue," said Segal, CEO of Medical Justice, a company that offers medicolegal and reputation management services to physicians. "The patient was not identifiable, nor was the patient ever in harm's way, or at risk for a suboptimal outcome."

The patient had signed an authorization form allowing the surgery to be recorded and featured online for promotional purposes, Green said. Green has since spoken with the patient about the viral video and said she is supportive of Green and is pleased with her surgery results. The patient is not on social media.

To continue reading this article [Click Here](#)