

State officials will meet to discuss Hameli case

By JANE HARRIMAN
Staff reporter

DOVER — State officials are expected to meet this morning to plan strategy in the case of chief medical examiner Dr. Ali Z. Hameli, reinstated last week — at least temporarily — to the post he held for almost 30 years.

Hameli was fired by Secretary of Health and Social Services Carmen R. Nazario in April, without a hearing, after two female employees alleged he had made sexually harassing comments to them. Hameli has denied all charges, saying the women conspired against him.

He filed a lawsuit against Nazario and Thomas LoFaro, deputy director of labor relations for the state, charging they denied him his right to due process.

On Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Sue L. Robinson ruled the state had violated that constitutionally guaranteed right.

She ordered the state to give

Hameli back his job, at least until he is given a proper hearing on the charges against him, and also ordered the state to give him back pay totaling about \$44,500.

State officials said Monday night they will decide this morning whether to seek a stay of Robinson's order, but that they definitely plan to hold a hearing as ordered.

Sheri Woodruff, spokeswoman for Gov. Carper, said the state fired Hameli without a hearing because he was considered "a threat to the women he supervised."

Although Hameli's lawyer, Sheldon N. Sandler, said just after Robinson's decision that Hameli is entitled to get back his job today, Hameli isn't expected to show up for work this morning.

Sandler said he expects to "work out a reasonable time for him to return." State officials maintain they have until Sept. 12 to reinstate Hameli.