

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

In The Matter Of:

Rebecca Rene Lewis, R.D.H,
(License No: 10181)

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CONSENT ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (Dental Board) as authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-229, for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. The parties freely and voluntarily consent to the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out herein and to the entry of the Order of Discipline:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Dental Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding pursuant to the authority granted to it in Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes, including the Dental Hygiene Act in Article 16, and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners, set forth in 21 North Carolina Administrative Code Chapter 16.
2. Respondent was licensed to practice dental hygiene in North Carolina on August 17, 2012 and holds license number 10181.
3. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was subject to the Dental Hygiene Practice Act and the rules promulgated thereunder.

4. On March 1, 2016, the Board received information from Respondent's employer that on February 26, 2016, Respondent lost consciousness while treating a dental hygiene patient.

5. When questioned by her employer, Respondent admitted to taking Methadone.

6. Upon receipt of this information, the Board determined that Respondent constituted a threat to the public health, safety and welfare and on March 2, 2016, summarily suspended her license pursuant to G.S. 150B-3(c).

7. The Board's request for court documents concerning Respondent's potential arrests or convictions resulted in discovery of the following charges:

- a. May 22, 2015 – Misdemeanor possession of a Schedule II controlled substance;
- b. May 22, 2015 – Misdemeanor possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance;
- c. May 22, 2015 – Misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia; and
- d. February 26, 2016 – Driving While Impaired.

8. Respondent pled guilty to the May 22, 2015 charges of: possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

9. Respondent renewed her dental hygiene license on January 31, 2016 and did not disclose the convictions from 2015.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and the consent of the parties hereto, the Dental Board hereby enters the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Dental Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this case.
2. Respondent's conviction of three misdemeanor charges is a violation of G.S. §90-229(a)(3) and §90-229(a)(6).
3. Respondent engaged in fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in obtaining the renewal of her dental hygiene license in 2015 by failing to reveal her 2015 arrests and convictions, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-229(a)(1).

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and with the consent of the parties hereto, it is ORDERED as follows:

ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

1. License Number 10181 issued to Respondent for the practice of dental hygiene in North Carolina is hereby revoked.
2. Respondent may petition the Board for the reinstatement of her dental hygiene license after completing the following:
 - (a) Respondent shall submit herself to a chemical dependency program, approved by the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals, for an assessment. Respondent shall undergo and remain in any recommended treatment by the program until released by the facility. Respondent must participate in any in-patient, out-patient or after-care treatment plan

recommended by the approved treatment facility. The Board shall be notified in writing prior to the discontinuation of treatment. Respondent shall direct the person(s) treating her to submit to the Board monthly reports of her treatment progress. These reports shall be submitted to the Board by the fifteenth (15th) day of each month. Respondent shall bear the expense of treatment and reporting.

- (b) Following the completion of any recommended in-patient and/or out-patient treatment, Respondent shall enter into a contract with the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals (CDP). The terms of the contract are at the sole discretion of the CDP. Respondent must comply with all provisions of that contract. Respondent shall sign a release with the Caring Dental Professionals permitting them to submit monthly reports to the Board regarding her progress in the program.
- (c) The Board will consider the reinstatement of Respondent's dental hygiene license only if the Caring Dental Professionals makes a recommendation to the Board supporting Respondent's return to the active practice of dental hygiene.

This the 18th day of July, 2016.

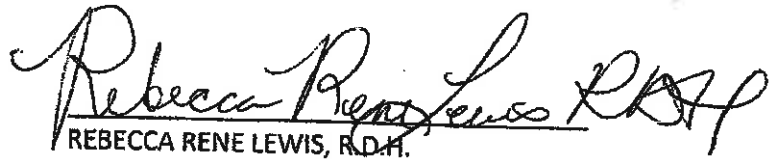
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

By: Terry W. Fiddle
Terry W. Fiddle
Deputy Operations Officer

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, REBECCA RENE LEWIS, R.D.H., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety and that I do freely and voluntarily consent to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of Discipline and the terms and conditions set forth herein. By signing this Statement of Consent I hereby express my understanding that the Board will report the contents of this Consent Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank and that this Consent Order shall become a part of the permanent public record of the Board.

This the 1st day of June, 2016.


REBECCA RENE LEWIS, R.D.H.