BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF

TRISTANNE M. SPOTTSWOOD, D.D.S. (License No. 7332)

CONSENT ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners as authorized by G.S. § 90-41.1(b) for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing.

A settlement conference was held on July 12, 2013 during which Tristanne M. Spottswood, D.D.S. (the respondent), was represented by Mike Weddington. Carolin Bakewell represented the Investigative Panel. The parties hereby consent to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out herein and to the entry of the Order of Discipline.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (the Dental Board) is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this action under the authority granted to the Board in Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes (Dental Practice Act) and the Board’s Rules and Regulations.

2. The Respondent was licensed to practice dentistry in North Carolina on June 15, 2001 and holds license number 7332. She has remained licensed to practice dentistry in North Carolina and was subject to the Dental Practice Act and the Board’s Rules and Regulations at all times relevant hereto.
3. Prior to 2012, Respondent was engaged in the practice of dentistry with the United States Air Force.

4. In 2010, the United States Air Force revoked Dr. Spottswood’s clinical privileges based upon findings that she had a) altered patient records to conceal errors, b) prescribed medication for non-dental conditions, c) failed to note prescriptions in patient records, d) failed to obtain informed consent for dental procedures, e) forged or allowed another to forge a signature on a consent form and f) exhibited poor clinical judgment by incorrectly diagnosing dental conditions, improperly treating dry socket cases, failing to recognize that a patient was over-sedated and failing to monitor sedated patients properly.

5. Following the settlement conference, and at the direction of the Dental Board, Dr. Spottswood agreed to participate in a psychiatric evaluation through the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals Program.

6. In August 2013, Dr. Spottswood underwent a 96 hour psychiatric evaluation at Ridgeview Institute, where she was diagnosed with Cognitive Disorder NOS and Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder traits.

7. On October 7 and 8, 2013, Dr. Spottswood underwent a neuropsychological evaluation by Dr. George J. Demakis, a licensed North Carolina psychologist, who diagnosed Dr. Spottswood with Unspecified Anxiety Disorder.

8. Dr. Demakis recommended that Dr. Spottswood receive mental health treatment to deal with her anxiety should she elect to return to the practice dentistry in North Carolina.

9. Dr. Spottswood currently lives and practices dentistry in Oklahoma.
Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and with the consent of the parties hereto, the Board enters the following

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over the person of the Respondent.

2. The Respondent had notice of the settlement conference in this matter and is properly before the Hearing Panel of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners assigned hereto.

3. The Respondent has been negligent in the practice of dentistry, in violation of G.S. § 90-41(a)(12) and committed fraudulent or misleading acts in the practice of dentistry in violation of G.S. § 90-41(a)(17).

4. The Respondent should be required to demonstrate that she is mentally and physically competent before she is permitted to resume the practice of dentistry in North Carolina.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and with the consent of the parties, the Board enters the following:

**ORDER OF DISCIPLINE**

1. License number 7332 issued to Respondent for the practice of dentistry in North Carolina is hereby suspended indefinitely, effective upon entry of this Order.
2. The Respondent may petition for the conditional reinstatement of her dental license upon producing sufficient evidence that she is mentally and physically competent to practice dentistry.

This the 17 day of April, 2014.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

BY: Terry W. Friddle
Deputy Operations Officer
STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, TRISTANNE SPOTTSWOOD, D.D.S., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety and that I do freely and voluntarily admit that there is a factual basis for the Findings of Fact set forth therein, that the Findings of Fact support the Conclusions of Law, that I will not contest the Findings of Fact should further disciplinary action be warranted in this matter, and that I assent to the terms and conditions set forth therein. 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 31st day of March, 2014.

TRISTANNE SPOTTSWOOD, D.D.S.