

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
TERA TRANTER ZRINYI, D.D.S.) **CONSENT ORDER**
)

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (the “Board”) as authorized by G.S. § 90-41 for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. A settlement conference was held before the Board on April 13, 2019. Dr. Tera Tranter Zrinyi (“Applicant”) **elected to appear without counsel**. The **Investigative Panel (“IP”) was represented by Crystal S. Carlisle**. The parties freely and voluntarily consent to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out herein and to the entry of the Order of Conditional Licensure.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The 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 Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

2. Applicant was licensed to practice dentistry in the following states on the dates indicated:

- a. Idaho – September 14, 1999;
- b. Pennsylvania – November 5, 2003;
- c. Michigan – March 31, 2007;
- d. Wisconsin – April 11, 2007;
- e. Ohio – April 13, 2007;
- f. Indiana – April 18, 2007;
- g. Massachusetts – July 19, 2007;
- h. Maine – August 28, 2007; and
- i. Washington – April 3, 2009.



3. On January 24, 2019, Applicant applied for licensure in North Carolina by credentials.

4. Applicant disclosed in her application that she had been previously disciplined by another Board(s) and had been reported to the National Practitioner Databank.

5. **Applicant's disciplinary history is as follows:**

- a. October 31, 2016 – Consent Agreement with the Idaho Board alleging Applicant left open margins on the teeth of several patients and failed to provide a response to the Board;
- b. October 1, 2018 – Surrender of Idaho license based upon numerous allegations including, but not limited to: deficient recordkeeping; failure to inform patients of dental conditions; providing unnecessary or unsupported dental treatment; and closing her practice and abandoning her patients without completing treatment, arranging for the completion of treatment, and refunding the cost of treatment;
- c. June 4, 2018 – Surrender of Washington license based upon allegations including: **advertisement of a "signature dentures"** package which included services a patient did not receive and the patient did not receive a refund; and closing her practice and abandoning her patients without completing treatment, arranging for the completion of treatment, and refunding the cost of treatment.

6. **Applicant's application was initially denied** by the Board based upon her disciplinary history.

7. Applicant explained that she did not admit to the allegations against her in the October 31, 2016 Idaho Consent Order, but acknowledged that a factual basis existed for the discipline.

8. Applicant stated that the patient abandonment allegations were related to a bitter divorce, and moving was necessary to ensure her safety. She stated she arranged for her patients to be seen by another provider.

9. As part of the discipline in Idaho and Washington, Applicant paid fines; took and passed a jurisprudence exam; completed CE courses in ethics, recordkeeping, risk management, and prosthodontics; and agreed to permit the Board to review her post-operative radiographs for any restorative treatment or fixed prosthetic cases for six months.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over Applicant and the subject matter of this case.

2. Applicant had proper notice of the time, date and place of the Settlement Conference and attended the Settlement Conference.

3. **Considering Applicant's disciplinary history, protection of the public in the future** requires that restrictions be placed upon her ability to practice dentistry.

4. Applicant has agreed to the entry of this Consent Order.

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 CONDITIONAL LICENSURE

1. **Applicant's application for licensure as** a dentist in North Carolina is hereby granted, provided for a period of three (3) years, she adheres to the following probationary terms and conditions:

- a. Applicant shall violate no provisions of the Dental Practice Act or the Board Rules and Regulations;
- b. Applicant shall neither permit nor direct any of her employees to violate any provision of the Dental Practice Act or the Board Rules and Regulations;
- c. Applicant shall permit the Board and its agents to inspect and observe her office and patient records and interview employers, employees, and co-workers at any time during normal office hours;
- d. Applicant shall engage a North Carolina licensed dentist approved **by the Board's IP to monitor Applicant's treatment of patients. Within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Order, Applicant shall submit a proposed practice monitor for review and potential approval by the Board's IP, at its discretion. The practice** monitor shall meet with Applicant regularly and no less than twice per month to review patient records selected by the monitor, not the Applicant or her employees.

During those meetings, the monitor shall examine the patient records to determine the appropriate treatment of patients. Applicant shall ensure that the monitor prepares and submits to the Board monthly, for a period of six (6) months, reports with findings, including the specific patient treatment reviewed. The IP reserves the right to review the charts that the monitor selects for his/her report, which records Applicant shall provide to the IP upon its request. The reports shall be due no later than the last day of each month beginning the month after this Order is entered. Applicant is responsible for all payment of costs associated with this monitoring. If the monitor reports information to the Board indicating that **Applicant may be engaging in a violation of the Board's statutes or regulations**, Applicant understands that such findings may result in disciplinary action by the Board, following notice to Applicant and an opportunity to be heard.

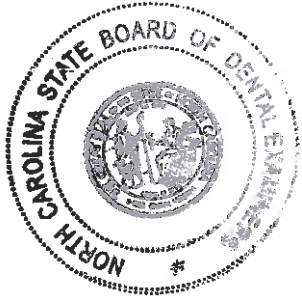
2. If Applicant fails to comply with any provision of this Order or breaches any term or condition thereof, the Board shall promptly schedule a Show Cause Hearing to permit Applicant to show cause why her dental license should not be suspended. If, as a result of the Show Cause Hearing, the Board is satisfied that Applicant failed to comply with or breached any term or condition of this Order, **Applicant's** license shall be rescinded and, upon written demand, Applicant shall immediately surrender her dental license and current renewal certificate to the Board. This sanction shall be in addition to and not in

lieu of any sanction the Board may impose as a result of future violations of the Dental Practice Act or the Board Rules.

This the 26th day of AUGUST, 2019.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

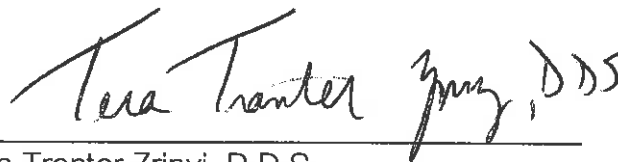
By: Marlin W. Young DDS



STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Tera Tranter Zrinyi, D.D.S., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety. I assent to its terms and conditions set out herein. I freely and voluntarily admit that there is a factual basis for the findings of fact herein, that the findings of fact support the conclusions of law, that I will not contest the findings of fact, the conclusions of law, or the order of discipline in any future proceedings before or involving the Board, including if future disciplinary proceedings or action is warranted in this matter. I knowingly waive any right to appeal or otherwise later challenge this Consent Order once entered. I understand that the Board will report the contents of this Consent Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank and that this Consent Order will become part **of the Board's permanent public record.** I further acknowledge that this required reporting may have adverse consequences in other contexts and any potential effects will not be the basis for a reconsideration of this Consent Order. I have had an opportunity to consult with an attorney prior to signing this Consent Order.

This the 26th day of June, 2019.



Tera Tranter Zrinyi, D.D.S.