BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF: Ernest J. Goodson, D.D.S. (License No. 4771)	))))))	**CONSENT ORDER**

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners [the "Board"] as authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-41.1(b) for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. Respondent, Ernest J. Goodson D.D.S. ["Respondent"] was represented by Kenneth L. Jones. The Investigative Panel [the "IP"] was represented by Douglas J. Brocker. The parties freely and voluntarily consent to the following:

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. Respondent was licensed to practice dentistry in North Carolina on July 14, 1980, and holds license number 4771 ["License"].

3. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was subject to the Dental Practice Act and the Board's rules and regulations.

Complaint About Treatment of Patient AP

4. In 2025, the mother of Patient AP filed a complaint concerning Respondent's orthodontic assessment and treatment of Patient AP beginning in December 2020 and ending on May 29, 2025. She alleged that Respondent was overly aggressive towards her daughter, failed to remove cement, and failed to place her daughter in retention at her last appointment on May 29, 2025.

5. Patient AP received orthodontic appliances in April 2021 and remained in them until May 29, 2025, when she returned to have the appliances removed. Respondent's initial planned treatment length was 24 months. Respondent contends that treatment was prolonged due to patient non-compliance as noted in his records as "NP", thirteen no-show appointments, and one re-scheduled appointment.

6. During the May 29, 2025 debonding appointment, a dispute arose between Respondent and Patient AP's mother. Respondent contends that the patient's mother threatened to pull a gun from her purse and "shoot up the office." As a result of the dispute, Respondent did not provide Patient AP with retainers after removing the appliances.

7. At the time Respondent terminated his treatment of Patient AP, her benefits for orthodontic treatment through Medicaid had been fully expended.

8. On June 3, 2025, Patient AP presented to another dental office with a chief complaint of unfinished orthodontic treatment and orthodontic cement left behind after bracket removal. A limited oral evaluation revealed cement on teeth #s 22-28 and 30, which was then removed with a high-speed handpiece.

9. Respondent's patient record and treatment notes for Patient AP did not contain numerous items necessary to comply with the standard of care for orthodontic treatment or corresponding records, including failing to provide or document:

a. annual panoramic x-rays to check for progress, root resorption and position, and periodontal changes;

b. any conversations or concerns expressed to the parent about any non-compliance, oral hygiene or cavities, missed appointments, or the length of treatment;

c. any communication and coordination with the patient's general dentist; and

d. treatment progress and final records or treatment result.

Complaint by Patient MK

10. In 2025, Patient MK filed a complaint concerning Respondent's orthodontic assessment and treatment of her beginning in December 2022 and ending on August 13, 2025.

11. Patient MK received orthodontic appliances beginning in April 2023 and remained in them through September 2025. Respondent's initial planned treatment length was 24 months.

12. From July 19, 2023, through July 1, 2025, Patient MK presented for multiple repairs and periodic appliance adjustments.

13. On August 13, 2025, Respondent noted in the record that he dismissed Patient MK because she was unhappy with the orthodontic treatment, specifically with the number of times she had to come in to fix the band on her lower left molar.

14. On September 5, 2025, the mother of Patient MK spoke with Respondent. During that conversation, Respondent alleged that Patient MK was rude and disrespectful at the August 13 appointment, and he refused her request to remove the braces unless Patient MK apologized first for insulting Respondent, which was unprofessional.

15. Later that month, Respondent agreed to remove Patient MK's braces if she signed a release for him, which did not occur.

16. At the time Respondent terminated his treatment of Patient MK, her benefits for orthodontic treatment through Medicaid had been fully expended.

17. On December 17, 2025, Patient MK presented to another orthodontic office with the appliances Respondent placed still present. An evaluation revealed that she would need another 12 months of orthodontic treatment.

18. Respondent's patient record and treatment notes for Patient MK did not contain numerous items necessary to comply with the standard of care for orthodontic treatment and corresponding records, including failing to provide or document:

a. annual panoramic x-rays to check for treatment progress, root resorption and position, and periodontal changes;

b. the wire sizes used for more than a two-year duration of treatment;

c. any conversations or concerns expressed to the patient about any non-compliance;

d. any communication and coordination with the patient's general dentist;

e. treatment progress and the final result and images; and

f. treatment options and how to continue with another practice with her orthodontic treatment after Respondent dismissed her as a patient.

Complaint About Treatment of Patient KP

19. In 2025, the mother of Patient KP filed a complaint concerning Respondent's orthodontic assessment and treatment of Patient KP beginning in November 2021 through September 3, 2025.

20. Patient KP received orthodontic appliances beginning in May 2022 and remained in them until September 3, 2025. Respondent's initial planned treatment length was 24 months.

21. From May 17, 2022, through July 10, 2025, Patient KP presented for periodic appliance adjustments and repairs.

22. On September 3, 2025, Patient KP presented for removal of the appliances and impressions for retainers.

23. After the appliances were removed and while Respondent was making impressions for an upper retainer, Patient KP indicated that she was choking on the alginate material and alleged that Respondent attempted to physically restrain her, which he denied.

24. According to Respondent's notes, Patient KP was rude, pulled the upper impression from her mouth, got out of the chair in an outrage, and threw the impression across the floor, and the mother got upset with Respondent.

25. On September 4, 2025, the patient's father returned to the office, signed a letter of release requested by Respondent, and was provided an active transfer form.

26. On September 13, 2025, Patient KP presented to another dental office with a chief complaint of not being able to complete impressions for retainers at Respondent's office.

27. The dentist removed left-over cement and blue bumper material from Patient KP's teeth, and she was scanned for retainers with an iTero scanner. The subsequent dentist delivered the retainers without incident on October 6, 2025.

28. Respondent's patient record and treatment notes for Patient KP did not contain numerous items necessary to comply with the standard of care for orthodontic treatment and corresponding records, including failing to provide or document:

a. annual panoramic x-rays to check for treatment progress, root resorption and position, and periodontal changes; and

b. the treatment progress and results.

29. Respondent's treatment of the three patients about whom complaints were filed with the Board demonstrated certain patterns, including:

a. failing to take periodic interim and final images of treatment progress, progression, and result;

b. failing to communicate or document communications with patients or their parents about multiple important issues;

c. failing to complete or document meeting objectives of treatment, despite lengthy treatment and numerous visits; and

d. leaving cement and other debris on teeth after de-bonding.

2026 Renewal Application

30. Respondent was charged with two separate instances of alleged misdemeanor assault on a female in 2025, after he renewed his dental license for 2025.

31. In the first instance, on February 25, 2025, Respondent was charged for alleged assault on now former Patient DM while attempting to take an upper impression for a retainer in his dental office, similar to the allegation in the complaint for Patient KP.

32. In the second instance, on May 22, 2025, Respondent was charged with assault on a female concerning an employee of the postal office while there as a customer.

33. On January 31, 2026, Respondent electronically submitted a Dental License Renewal application.

34. On the application for renewal, there are multiple questions asking the applicant about criminal matters, including whether the applicant has been summoned to court or charged with any felony or misdemeanor offenses since their last renewal.

35. Respondent checked 'No' to all questions, failed to disclose either of the pending assault charges in any manner, and attested that all answers given on the application were correct, which was false.

36. Respondent responded to the complaint involving his renewal application answers. Respondent acknowledged that he answered the questions incorrectly, failed to otherwise disclose the criminal charges, asserted that it was oversight, and apologized for doing so. Respondent denied the allegations involved in both criminal charges.

37. Both criminal assault charges remain pending at the time of entry of this Consent Order.

38. The Board makes no findings in this Order about whether Respondent committed any of the alleged conduct leading to the assault charges and similar alleged aggressive behavior in some of the patient complaints.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and with the consent of the parties hereto, the Hearing Panel enters the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over Respondent.

2. Respondent was properly notified of this matter and has consented to the entry of this Consent Order.

3. Respondent violated N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-41(a)(6) and (12) and 21 NCAC 16T .0101 in his treatment of and records maintained for Patients AJ, MK, and KP, as set forth in Paragraphs 4-30.

4. Respondent violated N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-41(a)(1) in submitting his 2026 renewal application and failing to respond accurately and disclose the pending criminal charges.

5. The violations are not based on the truth of the alleged assaults and allegations of similar behavior by patients. However, the multiple allegations occurring

over a relatively short time frame warrant a professional screening by North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals ("NC CDP") to ensure protection of the public.

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 4771 issued to Respondent for the practice of dentistry in North Carolina is suspended for a period of three years but conditionally restored with no active suspension, provided that Respondent complies with the probationary conditions and requirements in Paragraphs 2-9 of this Consent Order of Discipline ["Probationary Status"].

2. Within 30 days from entry of the Consent Order, Respondent shall obtain a preliminary screening by NC CDP. Respondent shall follow all of NC CDP's recommendations, if any, resulting from the preliminary screening and fully cooperate with NC CDP. Respondent shall sign a release with NC CDP permitting NC CDP to share information with the Board regarding the preliminary screening and his participation and cooperation with NC CDP, if recommended.

3. Respondent shall report the result of pending criminal charges to the Board's IP within 30 days of resolution at the trial level of each charge.

4. Within 180 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall complete a customized continuing education program especially designed for him by the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry or the East Carolina School of Dental Medicine in conjunction with and approved in advance by the Board's IP ["Customized CE

Program"], covering the following subject areas: (1) current standard of care for orthodontic practice and recordkeeping and (2) the importance of self-disclosure in professional regulation.

5. The Customized CE Program requirements in Paragraphs 4 are subject to the following conditions:

a. The Program shall be in addition to the continuing education required by the Board for renewal of Respondent's License.

b. Respondent shall submit to the IP written proof of satisfactory completion of the Customized CE Program before it is accepted to satisfy the requirements of this Order.

c. Respondent is solely responsible for making all arrangements for and bearing the costs of the Customized CE Program within the specified timeframe.

6. Within 60 days of completing the Customized CE Program, Respondent shall engage a licensed North Carolina dentist approved by the Board's IP to serve as a practice monitor related to any practice in which he engages in the practice of dentistry ["Practice Monitor"]. Within 30 days of completing the Customized CE Program, Respondent shall submit a proposed Practice Monitor for review and potential approval by the Board's IP, at its discretion. The Practice Monitor shall meet face to face with Respondent regularly and no less than quarterly and review example patient charts and billing records selected by the Practice Monitor, not by Respondent or his employees. Face to face includes meeting in person or virtually using both visual and audio means. During these meetings, the Practice Monitor shall examine example patient records to

determine Respondent's compliance with all requirements, including the subject areas of the Customized CE Program in Paragraph 4.

7. Respondent shall ensure that the Practice Monitor prepares and submits to the Board quarterly reports with findings concerning those issues for the quarter, including identifying the specific patient treatment and billing records reviewed. The IP reserves the right to review the records that the Practice Monitor selects for the report, which records Respondent shall provide to the IP upon its request. The reports shall be due no later than January 30, April 30, July 30, and October 30, for the previous quarter in each year. Respondent is responsible for payment of all costs associated with this monitoring. If the Practice Monitor reports information to the Board indicating that Respondent may be engaging in a violation of the Board's statutes or regulations, Respondent understands that such findings may result in further disciplinary action by the Board, including potential activation of his suspension, following notice to Respondent and an opportunity to be heard. If there are four consecutive quarterly monitor reports with no violations or concerns noted, Respondent could petition the Board to remove the monitor requirement.

8. Respondent shall also adhere to the following standard additional terms and conditions throughout the Probationary Status period:

a. Respondent shall violate no provision of the Dental Practice Act or the Board's rules.

b. Respondent shall neither direct nor permit any of his employees to violate any provision of the Dental Practice Act or the Board's rules.

c. Respondent shall permit the Board or its agents to inspect and observe his office, conduct a random review of patient chart records, and interview employers, employees, and coworkers at any time during normal office hours.

d. Respondent shall comply with all requirements for license renewal, including CEs.

e. Respondent shall keep the Board apprised of his current address, phone number, and email address and notify the Board of any change to that contact information no later than ten (10) days after it becomes effective.

9. After a minimum of three years, Respondent may petition the Board to have his License released from Probationary Status. To have his License released from Probationary Status, Respondent has the burden to demonstrate full compliance with all probationary conditions and requirements in Paragraphs 2-8 and to demonstrate that the Practice Monitor reports were timely submitted and contained no violations or concerns for at least the last twelve consecutive months prior to submitting a petition. Respondent's License shall remain in Probationary Status until the Board grants such a petition.

10. Respondent recognizes that the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth in this Consent Order may present him with certain practical difficulties. The Board concludes that each one is necessary to ensure public protection and it does not intend to modify or eliminate any of the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth herein based on such potential difficulties, except as noted herein.

11. If Respondent fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order or breaches any term or condition thereof, the Board shall promptly schedule a public Show Cause Hearing to allow Respondent an opportunity to show cause as to why the suspension of Respondent's License shall not be activated for violating a valid order of the Board. If after the Show Cause Hearing, the Board is satisfied that Respondent failed to comply or breached any term or condition of this Consent Order, the Board shall activate the suspension of his License and may enter such other discipline or conditions as the evidence warrants for proven violations of the Dental Practice Act or of the Board's rules occurring after entry of this Order.

12. This Consent Order and the provisions contained herein shall be effective upon entry.

13. The Board shall retain jurisdiction of this matter and Respondent to enforce the provisions herein or enter orders as necessary in the future.

This the 22 day of September 2026.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

Casie S. Goode
Director of Investigations

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Ernest J. Goodson, 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 freely, voluntarily, and without coercion or duress. I acknowledge that there is sufficient evidence to form 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 in any future proceedings before or involving the Board. I am not making any admissions for any other purpose or proceeding. I knowingly waive any right to seek judicial review, appeal, or otherwise later challenge this Consent Order once entered. I agree to service of the Consent Order to the email or mailing address of my counsel in this matter and waive service by any other method. 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. In exchange for resolving this matter, I forever release the Board, and all its members, officials, agents, counsel, representatives, and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities, from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order. I have consulted with counsel before signing this Consent Order.

This the _____ day of _____ 2026.

Ernest J. Goodson
Ernest J. Goodson (Sep 17, 2026 12:51:11 EDT)

Ernest J. Goodson, D.D.S.

Waiver of Limited Ex Parte Communication

I understand that the proposed Consent Order that I have signed is subject to review and approval and is not effective until approved by the Hearing Panel. **I agree and consent that the Hearing Panel members may be provided the proposed Consent Order for review and consideration.**

I further agree and consent that the Board staff, the Investigative Panel (IP), and its counsel may discuss the proposed Consent Order and related information and documentation with Hearing Panel members for the purpose of advocating approval of the proposed Consent Order without me or my counsel being present.

If the proposed Consent Order is not approved, I agree and consent that neither I nor anyone on my behalf will assert that that these limited ex parte communications, including review of the documents, will disqualify any Hearing Panel members from considering and deciding this matter after a contested case hearing.

I also agree that I am not entitled to obtain or discover the above-referenced limited communications or the substance of these communications between the Hearing Panel members and the Board staff, the IP, and its counsel, regardless of whether the proposed Consent Order is approved.

I have consulted with my counsel in this matter, who also has signed below, before signing and agreeing to this waiver of limited ex parte communication.

Ernest J. Goodson
Ernest J. Goodson (Sep 17, 2026 12:51:11 EDT)

Ernest J. Goodson, D.D.S.

Sep 17, 2026
Date

Kenneth L. Jones
Counsel for Dr. Goodson

9/17/2026
Date