BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF: WILLIAM V. LINGER, D.D.S. (License No. 6917)	)))))	**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 William V. Linger, 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 in September 1998 and holds license number 6917 ["License"]. Respondent was issued and held a moderate conscious sedation permit 0814 ["Sedation Permit"] until April 14, 2025.

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

Prior Procedural History

4. On March 8, 2022, the Board entered into a Consent Order with Respondent ["2022 Consent Order"].

5. Pursuant to the 2022 Consent Order, Dr. Linger's dental License was placed on probationary status and his Sedation Permit was restricted until certain conditions were completed, including requiring the use of another sedation provider, completing a comprehensive remedial course in sedation treatment, procedures, protocols, and recordkeeping, among other topics, and then having a sedation practice monitor once the course was completed.

6. Respondent completed the comprehensive remedial course through the University of North Carolina ["UNC"] School of Dentistry by November 2022.

7. In May 2023, the Board stayed the requirement for Respondent to use another sedation provider and approved a sedation practice monitor selected by Respondent and approved by the IP pursuant to a Petition filed by Respondent.

8. On July 31, 2024, a Board investigator conducted a probation visit and sedation inspection, including an example records review.

9. Based on the results of the probation visit and sedation inspection, including the example record review, the IP requested that Respondent provide it with additional sedation treatment records.

10. Review of those sedation treatment records, which included sedations done throughout Respondent's probationary period, demonstrated that Respondent continued many of the practices that were supposed to be addressed in the comprehensive remedial sedation course at UNC.

11. The Board held a settlement conference in March 2025 with Respondent about these issues.

12. As a result of the settlement conference, the Board entered a second Consent Order with Respondent on April 14, 2025 ["2025 Consent Order'], which sets forth the continuing violations found and is incorporated herein by reference.

13. The 2025 Consent Order resulted in Respondent surrendering his Sedation Permit and establishing the conditions for potential reinstatement of his Sedation Permit. The probationary restrictions on Respondent's License terminated after entry of the 2025 Consent Order and surrender of his Sedation Permit.

Application for Permit Reinstatement

14. After entry of the 2025 Consent Order, Respondent submitted a petition for reinstatement. With his application, Respondent submitted documentation that he completed an approved moderate sedation course.

15. On February 21, 2026, a Board-approved evaluator conducted a sedation inspection and evaluation of Respondent for his application to regain his sedation permit.

16. Respondent passed the online examination portion but failed the inspection and evaluation aspect. Specifically, Respondent did not have immediately available all required and unexpired emergency medications. Respondent also did not satisfactorily respond to inquiries about a medical emergency response.

17. On April 9, 2026, the Board notified Respondent of his failure and his right to request a reevaluation pursuant to the Board's regulations, 21 NCAC 16Q .0306. Respondent requested a reevaluation on April 22, 2026.

18. The Board notified Respondent on May 29, 2026, about necessary remediation on medical emergencies required by the Board's regulations prior to the reevaluation.

19. Respondent completed the required remediation and subsequently passed the reevaluation on July 18, 2026.

2025 Patient Complaint

20. In August of 2025, Patient MH filed a complaint against Respondent alleging that he had removed a significant amount of teeth structure and placed crowns instead of veneers on teeth numbers 5-12, as she previously agreed. Patient MH further alleged that the placement of the crowns resulted in infections, pain, and root canals on two of those teeth.

21. The Investigative Panel reviewed the records and had them evaluated. The reviews found that the treatment record did not contain documentation of informed consent or a treatment plan for the crowns. Respondent's patient record only contained a documentation entitled "Financial Guide" listing veneers to be placed on teeth numbers 5-12.

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 failed to document in Patient MH's record a treatment plan or informed consent in violation of GS 90-41(a)(6) and 21 NCAC 16T .0101(8) and (12) and 16T .0103.

4. Respondent has completed the requirements in Paragraph 3 of the 2025 Consent Order and the Board's regulations necessary to reinstate his Sedation Permit .

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 6917 issued to Respondent for the practice of dentistry in North Carolina is suspended for a period of one year but conditionally restored with no active suspension, provided that for a period of at least 3 years, Respondent complies with the probationary conditions and requirements in Paragraphs 2-7 of this Consent Order of Discipline ["Probationary Status"].

2. Within 60 days, 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 entry of the Consent Order, 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 3. Practice Monitor must review all available models, scans, and photos for all patients receiving crown, bridge, or veneer treatments until reviewing and determining that at least twenty such treatments and records fully comply with the applicable standard of care after Respondent completes the Customized CE Program in Paragraph 3. 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.

3. 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, including as to crowns and veneers: (1) informed consent, including proper documentation, and (2) recordkeeping, including treatment planning.

4. The Customized CE Program requirements in Paragraphs 3 is subject to the following conditions:

a. Both 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.

5. Respondent shall not provide crown, bridge, or veneer treatments to patients until successfully completing the Customized CE Program requirements in Paragraphs 3-4 and receiving written notice from the Board's IP that it received communication from UNC or ECU confirming his completion and of authorization for Respondent to resume such treatments.

6. 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.

7. Respondent's Sedation Permit is conditionally reinstated subject to full compliance with the requirements in Paragraph 4 of the 2025 Consent Order related to the Sedation Monitor, which provisions are fully incorporated herein by reference. The Practice Monitor requirement in Paragraph 2 of this Consent Order must be a separate dentist from the Sedation Monitor requirement in Paragraph 4 of the 2025 Consent Order..

8. 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 2-6 and to demonstrate that the Practice and Sedation 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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

12. 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 30th day of July 2026.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

Casie S. Goode
Director of Investigations

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, William V. Linger, 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. I have consulted with counsel before signing this Consent Order.

This the _____ day of _____ 2026.

William Linger (Jul 28, 2026 19:21:44 EDT)

William V. Linger, D.D.S.

Jul 28, 2026

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.

William Linger (Jul 28, 2026 19:21:44 EDT)

William V. Linger, D.D.S.

Jul 28, 2026

Date

Kenneth L. Jones
Counsel for Dr. Linger

7/29/2026

Date