BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	**FINAL AGENCY DECISION**
	)	
LYN ELLEN STANTON, R.D.H.,	)	
Petitioner	)	

THIS MATTER was heard before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners [Board] on March 13, 2026, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-41.1 and 150B-38 and 21 NCAC 16N .0504 of the Board's Rules. The Dental Board's Hearing Panel consisted of Board members Dr. W. Stan Hardesty, Dr. Mark W. Johnson, Edward J. Clemons, Jr., DDS, Dr. Catherine A. Watkins, Dr. F. Vincent Allison, and Lori Gordon Hendrick, RDH, PhD. Dr. William M. Litaker and the Honorable Teresa H. Vincent did not participate in the deliberation or decision of this matter. Alan M. Schneider represented Petitioner, Lyn Ellen Stanton, R.D.H. ("Petitioner"). Whitney S. Waldenberg represented the Investigative Panel. F. Lane Williamson represented the Hearing Panel.

Based upon the stipulations of the parties, the evidence admitted at the hearing, and the whole record, the Board enters the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners ("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 Board set forth in 21 North Carolina Administrative Code Chapter 16.

2. Petitioner has been licensed as a dental hygienist in the state of Massachusetts since 2010.

3. Petitioner submitted to the Board an application for dental hygiene licensure by credentials, received by the Board on March 4, 2025 ("application").

4. Following the investigation described herein, the application was denied on September 2, 2025, and Petitioner requested a formal hearing on the matter.

5. Petitioner signed her application before a notary on February 28, 2025, making the following attestation:

> I, Lyn Stanton, the applicant herein depose and say that all facts, statements, and answers contained in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am not omitting any information which might be of value to this Board in determining my qualifications and character, whether it is called for or not; and I agree that any falsification or withholding of information or facts concerning my qualifications as an applicant shall be sufficient to bar me from licensure by credentials or any future examination given by the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners[.]

6. On her application for licensure, Petitioner expressly denied having ever been arrested, taken into custody, indicted, charged, summoned to court, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. She also withheld or did not disclose any prior criminal charge, proceedings, or conviction.

7. However, prior to submitting the application, Petitioner had been arrested, taken into custody, and summoned to court for operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol in Massachusetts on September 23, 2016 ("September 23, 2016 incident").

8. She pleaded not guilty to the charges stemming from the September 23, 2016 incident and was subsequently tried by a jury and convicted of the crime for which she was arrested.

9. As of the date of the hearing in this matter, Petitioner had not disclosed her arrest or conviction to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry despite holding a license in dental hygiene in that state at the time of the incident and renewing her license on multiple occasions thereafter.

10. Petitioner admitted that she recalled the criminal history and called the courthouse in Massachusetts in January 2025, prior to completing and submitting the application, to find out if the court had a record of her criminal case.

11. After being informed that there was no record of the criminal case stemming from the September 23, 2016 incident, Petitioner expressly denied having any criminal history on her application to the Board and otherwise failed to disclose any aspect of that incident.

12. Petitioner knowingly provided the Board false answers and withheld information on her application for licensure regarding her criminal history.

13. In reviewing Petitioner's application, the Board conducted a background check on Petitioner and independently discovered the criminal matter stemming from the September 23, 2016 incident.

14. Upon discovering that Petitioner had a criminal history, the Board's Assistant Director of Investigations wrote to Petitioner on May 13, 2025, and asked her to provide the records related to the disposition of the criminal matter, along with an explanation for failing to disclose the criminal matter on her application.

15. Petitioner responded to the Board's representative the same day by claiming that the Clerk of District Court in Massachusetts did not have a criminal record

for Petitioner but did not provide any other information and did not explain why she failed to disclose the matter on her application.

16. The Board's Assistant Director of Investigations then asked Petitioner to provide a certified document from the Clerk of District Court in Massachusetts stating that there was no court record related to the criminal incident to corroborate her prior response. The Board's Assistant Director of Investigations also repeated her request to Petitioner to provide an explanation for not disclosing the incident on her application.

17. Petitioner repeated to the Assistant Director of Investigations that no such criminal records existed and did not provide any further information at that time or any corroboration of her prior response that no such records existed.

18. Thereafter, Petitioner obtained a copy of the record of her criminal case from the courthouse, and by letter dated May 17, 2025, provided the Board copies of the court records from Massachusetts. She did not, however, provide any explanation of the September 23, 2016 incident that led to her arrest.

19. The court record showed that Petitioner pleaded not guilty to the charge of driving under the influence, that she exercised her right to a jury trial, and that she was convicted of the crime by the jury. The record further disclosed that she was sentenced to probation.

20. The court record did not disclose details regarding the underlying incident that led to Petitioner's arrest.

21. On May 30, 2025, the Assistant Director of Investigations again asked Petitioner to provide an explanation of the incident leading to the criminal case.

22. On June 2, 2025, Petitioner emailed the Assistant Director of Investigations limited information regarding the criminal case, including the fact that she was arrested by the Town of Groveland Police Department.

23. In her June 2, 2025 explanation, Petitioner omitted material information, including that she had, in fact, been drinking the evening of September 23, 2016, and that she failed a field sobriety test that evening.

24. None of the information provided in Petitioner's June 2, 2025 explanation required information from the court record. Petitioner admitted that the information provided on June 2, 2025 was based on her independent recollection and that she could have disclosed this information to the Board at the time she completed the application.

25. Upon receiving the information provided by Petitioner on June 2, 2025, the Board's Assistant Director of Investigations requested the arresting officer's report from the Town of Groveland Police Department. The Board received the police report a short time thereafter.

26. The Board's Assistant Director of Investigations independently discovered, through review of the arresting officer's report, that Petitioner had, in fact, been drinking on the evening of September 23, 2016, and had failed a field sobriety test.

27. Petitioner was invited to participate in a prehearing conference at the Board offices to discuss her application and the criminal history.

28. The Board's Assistant Director of Investigations testified that Petitioner was not forthcoming during the prehearing conference and did not take responsibility for failing to disclose her criminal history. The Hearing Panel found the Board's Assistant Director of Investigations' testimony to be credible.

29. During the prehearing conference, Petitioner was asked whether she had disclosed the September 23, 2016 incident to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry on her renewal application(s) for her Massachusetts dental hygiene license. Petitioner told the Board member and staff present at the prehearing conference that she did not make any such disclosure because the Massachusetts renewal application did not require disclosure of misdemeanors and only required disclosure of felony offenses.

30. In a series of emails following the prehearing conference, the Board's Assistant Director of Investigations asked Petitioner to explain the basis for her statement that the Massachusetts Board did not require disclosure of misdemeanor offenses on renewal applications. The Board's Assistant Director of Investigations also encouraged Petitioner to contact the Massachusetts Board directly for clarification on how the question is stated on the Massachusetts renewal application.

31. Petitioner did not provide an explanation and instead replied: "This was 9 years ago. So I am still asking what I need to do?" The Assistant Director of Investigations answered that she should answer her question and provide an explanation.

32. After hearing no response from Petitioner for over a week, on August 18, 2025, the Board's Assistant Director of Investigations provided Petitioner an August 22, 2025 deadline to provide an explanation for her claim that the Massachusetts Board did not require disclosure of misdemeanors on the renewal application, but Petitioner did not respond with an explanation either before or after the deadline.

33. On September 2, 2025, the Board issued a letter notifying Petitioner that her application was denied.

34. Petitioner testified that she did not see emails from the Assistant Director of Investigations, but the Hearing Panel did not find Petitioner's testimony to be credible.

35. Throughout the investigation of Petitioner's application, the Board's representative asked Petitioner for information and explanations on a repeated basis and provided Petitioner several opportunities to cooperate. However, Petitioner repeatedly failed to provide complete information and was not forthcoming with the Board's representative.

36. Instead, the Board had to discover the criminal history through its own investigation, the details of the September 23, 2016 incident through its own investigation, and the requirements of the Massachusetts renewal application through its own investigation.

37. Petitioner provided false information on her application for licensure and did not cooperate with the Board's representative during the course of the investigation of her application.

38. Petitioner testified that she took responsibility for her actions but did not provide credible reasons for her false statements on her application, her repeated failure to provide information, and her failure to cooperate by answering the Board's questions.

39. Petitioner provided one letter from an employer in support of her character and fitness for licensure. The employer's letter stated that Petitioner had voluntarily taken the blame for the motor vehicle incident. The evidence demonstrated, however, that Petitioner pleaded not guilty to the charges stemming from the September 16, 2016 incident, required a jury trial for conviction, and attempted to shift responsibility for her actions during the application process.

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject of this proceeding and over the person of the Petitioner, Lyn Ellen Stanton, R.D.H.

2. Petitioner has not demonstrated that she is entitled to a North Carolina dental hygiene license.

3. Under the Dental Hygiene Act, "[t]he applicant for licensure shall be of good moral character." N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-224.1(b). Further, the Board may, in its discretion, refuse to issue a license by credentials to an applicant who the Board determines is unfit to practice dental hygiene. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-224.1(a).

4. Petitioner failed to demonstrate the requisite good moral character by the following separate acts:

   a. making false statements on her application; and

   b. repeatedly refusing to provide requested information to the Board's representative, omitting important information from her explanations provided to the Board, and failing to cooperate in the Board's investigation of her application.

5. Based on the same conduct, Petitioner is unfit to practice dental hygiene, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-224.1(a), which is sufficient alone to warrant the denial of her application.

6. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-229(a)(1), the Board may refuse to issue a license to practice dental hygiene if the applicant "[h]as engaged in any act or acts of

fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in obtaining or attempting to obtain a license or the renewal thereof."

7. Petitioner engaged in acts of misrepresentation and deceit by providing false answers on her application regarding her criminal history in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-229(a), which violation is sufficient alone to warrant the denial of her application.

8. Pursuant N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-229(a)(12), the Board may refuse to issue a license to practice dental hygiene if the applicant "[h]as engaged in any unprofessional conduct as the same may be from time to time, defined by the rules and regulations of the Board."

9. Under Rule 21 NCAC 16V .0102(2), "[u]nprofessional conduct by a dental hygienist as set out in G.S. 90-229(a)(12) shall include [...] presenting false or misleading testimony, statements, omissions, or records in any communication to the Board or the Board's investigators, employees, or agents regarding any matter subject to the provisions of the Dental Practice Act or Dental Hygiene Act."

10. Petitioner engaged in unprofessional conduct, as defined by 21 NCAC 16V .0102, by presenting false answers on her application to the Board and by making material omissions in her subsequent communications with the Board's agents. Petitioner's violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-229(a)(12) and 21 NCAC 16V .0102(2) are sufficient alone to warrant the denial of her application.

11. Petitioner's separate acts of making false statements on her application, her subsequent refusal to cooperate with the Board's representatives and provide requested information, and her false or misleading statements to the Board's agents each serve as separate bases under various provisions of the Dental Hygiene Act and the Board's Rules

for the determination that she is unfit to receive a dental hygiene license and her application should be denied.

12. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-8.1 does not apply to this matter because none of the Board's conclusions or application denial are based on her 2016 conviction. Instead, the Board's conclusions and denial are based on Petitioner's misconduct during the application process and subsequent investigation in 2025, which violations are set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, based upon the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and the whole record, the Hearing Panel enters the following:

ORDER

1. Petitioner's application for dental hygiene license is hereby DENIED.

2. Petitioner shall not be eligible to apply for licensure again for at least three (3) years from the entry of this Final Agency Decision denying her application.

3. As a prerequisite to applying for a North Carolina license after three (3) years from the entry of this Final Agency Decision, Petitioner shall demonstrate that she reported her complete criminal history to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry on or before her next Massachusetts dental hygiene renewal application and that any potential resulting investigation or disciplinary proceedings, including all potential appeals, have been concluded.

Entered this the 27th day of April, 2026.

Dr. W. Stan Hardesty
Hearing Panel Chair

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

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