BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Laura Lee Wellener, DDS	)	**ORDER**
	)	**SUMMARY SUSPENDING**
(License Number 8518)	)	**DENTAL LICENSE**
	)	

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-3(c), the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners [Board] finds that the public health, safety, and welfare requires emergency action and hereby summarily suspends License Number 8518 issued to Laura Lee Wellener, DDS [Respondent], effective upon ENTRY AND SERVICE of this Order on Respondent. This Order is entered based on sufficient evidence and information the Board recently obtained demonstrating that Respondent is a chronic or persistent user of intoxicants to the extent that it impairs her ability to practice dentistry in violation of G.S. 90-41(a)(2).

Specifically, Respondent was referred to the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals Program [NCCDP] by two medical professionals concerning potential impairment. Respondent signed an Evaluation Agreement on July 7, 2025, and initially cooperated with NCCDP as an anonymous participant. Respondent ceased cooperation with NCCDP beginning in late August 2025. Respondent admitted to the Clinical Director of NCCDP that she has resumed her use of intoxicants as recently as earlier this month and now refuses to follow recommendations for care and treatment.

As a result, on September 3, 2025, NCCDP reported Respondent to the Board. NCCDP's report included information and documentation protected by 42 CFR Part 2, which regulation governs information related to substance use diagnosis and treatment, and consequently is not set forth in this public order.

Pursuant to G.S. 90-48.2(d), NCCDP is required to report an anonymous participant to the Board if:

> (1) The dentist constitutes an imminent danger to the public or himself;
>
> (2) The dentist refuses to cooperate with the program, refuses to submit to treatment, or is still impaired after treatment and exhibits professional incompetence; or
>
> (3) It reasonably appears that there are other grounds for disciplinary action.

Respondent previously signed an informed consent authorizing NCCDP to disclose information and documentation to the Board under any of these circumstances and as it is required to do by this statute. NCCDP reported Respondent to the Board consistent with the provisions of G.S. 90-48.2(d) and the informed consent she signed previously.

Based on the information received, the Board finds and concludes that the public's health, safety, and welfare require emergency action and the summary suspension of Respondent's license. Therefore, Respondent shall immediately cease the practice of dentistry in North Carolina and surrender her license and current renewal certificate pending further order of the Board.

Formal proceedings in this matter will be promptly commenced and determined if Respondent submits a written request for a formal contested case hearing to the Board. Absent a written request or the entry of a consent order involving Respondent, a formal hearing will be scheduled as soon as practicable after the Board's investigation is completed. In that latter instance, the Board will serve Respondent with a Notice of Hearing containing the allegations to be heard in accordance with G.S. 150B-38(b).

This the 5th day of September, 2025.

William M. Litaker, Jr., DDS
President