

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

TARA M. HENSLEY, R.DH.)
(License Number 7742)) CONSENT ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-231 for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. Based upon the record herein and the consent of the parties hereto, the Dental Board enters the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners 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 Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners.
2. Tara M. Hensley, R.D.H. (Respondent) was licensed to practice dental hygiene in North Carolina on October 14, 2004 and holds license number 7742.
3. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was licensed to practice dental hygiene in North Carolina and was subject to the Dental Hygiene Practice Act and the rules promulgated thereunder.
4. On August 29, 2007 the parties hereto entered into a Consent Order which found, among other things that:

- a) Respondent surrendered her license to practice dental hygiene in Georgia in January 2005 after admitting that she had forged an unspecified number of prescriptions for Darvocet.
- b) Respondent did not reveal the Georgia disciplinary action to the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners.
- c) Respondent was discharged from her job as a hygienist with the Jackson County Health Department in March 2006, after it was discovered that she had attempted to telephone in an unauthorized prescription for herself for Hydrocodone, a Schedule III controlled substance, and that she had successfully called in an unauthorized prescription for Hydrocodone on at least one occasion in February 2006.
- d) Respondent's dental license was summarily suspended by the Board on April 11, 2006 after she declined to undergo in-patient treatment for substance abuse as recommended by the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals (CDP).
- e) Thereafter, Respondent underwent in-patient treatment for substance abuse.

5. Pursuant to the August 29, 2007 Consent Order, Respondent's license to practice dental hygiene in North Carolina was reinstated on condition that she complied with all terms of her CDP contract and certain other terms and conditions during the next ten years.

6. Respondent has notified the Board that she plans to return to the State of Georgia and has no plans to live or work in North Carolina in the future.

7. The CDP cannot work with individuals who live outside the State of North Carolina.

8. When Respondent moves to Georgia and thereby terminates her participation in the CDP, the Board will have no means of ensuring that Respondent can safely practice dental hygiene.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and the consent of the parties, the Board enters the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Dental Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and over the person of the Respondent.

2. Respondent has read and understands the terms of this Consent Order and voluntarily agrees to it.

3. Respondent should not be permitted to hold a license to practice dental hygiene in this state until she demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that she

a) is not impaired and can practice dental hygiene safely;

b) has, for the 12 months immediately preceding her petition for reinstatement of her North Carolina license, maintained continuous abstinence from alcohol and all drugs other than those prescribed to her by a treating physician who is aware of her addiction;

- c) has signed a new CDP contract and complied with its terms;
and
- d) has obtained the support and advocacy of CDP for the reinstatement of her dental hygiene license.

WHEREFORE based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and the consent of the parties, the Board enters the foregoing:

ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

1. The Respondent's license to practice dental hygiene in North Carolina is hereby REVOKED.
2. Respondent may seek reinstatement of her North Carolina hygiene license upon demonstrating, by clear and convincing evidence that she
 - a) is not impaired and can practice dental hygiene safely in this state;
 - b) has, for the 12 months immediately preceding her petition for reinstatement of her North Carolina license, maintained continuous abstinence from alcohol and all drugs other than those prescribed to her by a treating physician who is aware of her addiction;
 - c) has signed a new CDP contract prior to filing her petition for reinstatement and complied with its terms; and
 - d) has obtained the support and advocacy of CDP for the reinstatement of her dental hygiene license.

This the 17 day of March, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Friddle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Terry W. Friddle
Deputy Operations Officer

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, TARA M. HENSLEY, R.D.H., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety and that I do freely and voluntarily assent to the terms and conditions set forth therein.

This the 29 day of Feb, 2008.

Tara M Hensley RDH
TARA M. HENSLEY, R.D.H.