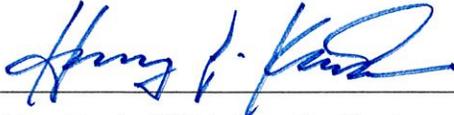


<p>POLICY NUMBER J-502</p>	<p>POLICY TITLE: Policy Regarding Ohio State Dental Board Termination of the Dentist-Patient Relationship</p>
	<p>RELATES TO: DENTISTS-PATIENTS TERMINATION OF CARE</p>
<p>EFFECTIVE DATE: December 6, 2017</p> <p>NEXT REVIEW DATE: December 2022</p>	<p><u>LICENSED DENTISTS</u></p>


 Constance Clark, R.D.H. President


 Harry Kamdar, M.B.A., Executive Director

I. Purpose

The Ohio State Dental Board (Board) is committed to ensuring the safe practice of dentistry to the public. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Board's position regarding what should be considered when terminating the dentist-patient relationship

Legal Authority

O.R.C. 4715.30 (A) Disciplinary Actions

II. Applicability

The policy applies to termination of the dentist-patient relationship.

III. Definitions

Dentist: O.R.C. 4715.01 which states: Any person shall be regarded as practicing dentistry, who is a manager, proprietor, operator, or conductor of a place for performing dental operations, or who teaches clinical dentistry, or who performs, or advertises to perform, dental operations of any kind, or who diagnoses or treats diseases or lesions of human teeth or jaws, or associated structures, or attempts to correct malpositions thereof, or who takes impressions of the human teeth or jaws, or who constructs, supplies, reproduces, or repairs any prosthetic denture, bridge, artificial restoration, appliance, or other structure to be used or worn as a substitute for natural teeth, except upon the order or prescription of a licensed dentist and constructed upon or by the use of casts or models made from an impression taken by a licensed dentist, or who advertises, offers, sells, or delivers any such substitute or the services rendered in the construction, reproduction, supply, or repair thereof to any person other than a licensed dentist, or who places or adjusts such substitute in the oral cavity of another, or uses the words "dentist," "dental surgeon," the letters "D.D.S.," or other letters or title in connection with his name, which in any way represents him as being engaged in the practice of dentistry. Manager, proprietor, operator, or conductor as used in this section includes any person:

- (A) Who employs licensed operators;
- (B) Who places in the possession of licensed operators[,] dental offices or dental equipment necessary for the handling of dental offices on the basis of a lease or any other agreement for compensation or profit for the use of such office or equipment, when such compensation is manifestly in excess of the reasonable rental value of such premises and equipment;
- (C) Who makes any other arrangements whereby he derives profit, compensation, or advantage through retaining the ownership or control of dental offices or necessary dental equipment by making the same available in any manner for the use of licensed operators; provided that this section does not apply to bona fide sales of dental equipment secured by chattel mortgage. Whoever having a license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene enters the employment of, or enters into any of the arrangements described in this section with, an unlicensed manager, proprietor, operator, or conductor, or who is determined mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction, or is committed by a court having jurisdiction for treatment of mental illness, may have his license suspended or revoked by the state dental board.

IV. Procedure

It is the position of the Board that the following elements should be satisfied prior to terminating the dentist-patient relationship:

- 1) All efforts should be made to give the patient sufficient notice of termination of dental services. The dentist shall provide written notification and/or documentation in the patient's chart of verbal communication with patient, terminating the dental services.
- 2) All efforts should be made to stabilize the patient's dental condition and not place the patient's dental health in immediate jeopardy.

- 3) Upon written request, a copy of all records should be made available to the patient or subsequent treating practitioner.

The Board traditionally has held that if a dentist has abandoned the patient, he or she potentially has violated the standard of care for the profession which may be grounds for discipline pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4715.30. Dentists following these minimum guidelines will likely be considered to be following appropriate termination procedures and thus giving an indication that the patient has not been abandoned.

V. Attachments

Dental Practice Act

VI. Monitoring

The supervisory staff overseeing the daily practices of the procedures contained within this policy shall utilize quality tools and instruments to ensure compliance.

An interdisciplinary team comprised of the Director, Deputy Director, and Policy Committee of the Board, shall meet as needed throughout the year to review policies and procedures and integrate collaborative services. Assigned designees may represent each of these respective disciplines. All policies must be documented as an official review in the policy database on an annual basis.

Each year, the policy design team shall review the quality assurance data and results derived from audit reports, quality tools and instruments, legal or investigatory measures, and interdisciplinary team meeting summaries and/or actions, and incorporate the findings and other improvement recommendations as revisions to the current policies and procedures or develop new policies when necessary.

VI. Training

This revised policy requires staff education or training prior to policy implementation.

VII. References

- O.R.C 4715.01 Dentist-dental hygienist definitions
- O.R.C. 4715.30 Disciplinary actions.