

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

WILLIAM C. HAWKS, D.D.S.     )  
(License No. 5496)             )

CONSENT ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) as authorized by G.S. 90-41.1(b) for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. William C. Hawks D.D.S. (Respondent), consents to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out herein and to the entry of the Order of Discipline.

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 under the authority granted it in Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes (the Dental Practice Act) and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (Dental Board).

2. Respondent was licensed to practice dentistry in North Carolina on June 2, 1986 and is subject to the Dental Practice Act and the rules promulgated thereunder.

3. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was engaged in the practice of general dentistry in North Carolina.

4. Following surgery in 2000, the Respondent became addicted to Hydrocodone, which he initially received legally by a prescription from his physician.

5. On 15 occasions in 2008, after he was no longer receiving prescriptions from his physician, the Respondent ordered Hydrocodone from a drug wholesale company under the guise of stocking his dental office. Respondent diverted a total of 1,500 doses of Hydrocodone for his personal use in 2008.

6. Between May 2008 and January 2009 the Respondent forged the signature of another dentist to five prescriptions for narcotics, without that dentist's knowledge or consent.

7. The Respondent obtained 310 units of Hydrocodone by presenting the forged prescriptions to various pharmacies in South Carolina.

8. On January 15, 2009, the Respondent was arrested by South Carolina law enforcement officials and charged with felony drug diversion.

9. The South Carolina criminal charges were dismissed in May 2009 after the Respondent completed an in-patient treatment drug addiction program at Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta.

10. The Board summarily suspended the Respondent's North Carolina dental license on January 15, 2009.

11. On April 30, 1990, the Dental Board entered into a Consent Order with the Respondent that found that he had prescribed narcotics for a female patient whom he later married, for purposes outside the scope of professional treatment. Respondent's dental license was suspended for two years, with six months of active suspension and an 18 month probationary term.

12. The Respondent violated the 1990 Consent Order by failing to complete required continuing education courses in the allotted time. Accordingly, his license was suspended for an additional 18 months.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over the person of the Respondent.

2. The Respondent has caused to be distributed narcotics for other than a lawful purpose in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-41(a)(25).

3. The Respondent is a chronic and persistent user of drugs or narcotics to the extent that such usage impairs his ability to practice dentistry, constituting a violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-41(a)(2).

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 5496 issued to Respondent for the practice of dentistry in North Carolina is hereby revoked. Respondent shall surrender his license and current renewal certificate to the Board at its offices immediately.

2. Respondent may petition the Board for the reinstatement of his dental license after completing the following:

- (a) Respondent must take and successfully pass the clinical portion of the Board's dental licensure examination;
- (b) Respondent shall enter into a contract with the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals (CDP). The terms of the contract are at the sole discretion of the CDP. Respondent must comply with all provisions of that contract. Respondent shall sign a release with the Caring Dental Professionals permitting them to submit monthly reports to the Board regarding his progress in the program;
- (c) The Board will consider the reinstatement of Respondent's dental license only if the Caring Dental Professionals makes a recommendation to the Board supporting Respondent's return to the active practice of dentistry.

This the 22 day of April, 2010.

BY: Terry W. Friddle  
Terry W. Friddle  
Deputy Operations Officer

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, WILLIAM C. HAWKS, D.D.S. do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety and that I do freely and voluntarily consent to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of Discipline and the terms and conditions set forth herein. By signing this Statement of Consent I hereby express my understanding that the Board will report the contents of this Consent Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank and that this Consent Order shall become a part of the permanent public record of the Board.

This the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

  
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WILLIAM C. HAWKS., D.D.S.