

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

In The Matter Of:

Ronald Reese, D.D.S.

(License Number 4108)

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CONSENT ORDER

THIS MATTER came on to be heard and was heard before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners ["Dental Board"] pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-41.1(b), for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing.

On May 25, 2016, the Dental Board entered an order summarily suspending License Number 4108 issued to Ronald Reese, D.D.S. ["Respondent"] based on evidence that Respondent failed to comply with the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals Program ["CDP"] after a medical doctor opined that he was unsafe to practice dentistry. In order to terminate further controversy and avoid additional proceedings, Respondent agrees to the findings and conclusions set forth within this Consent Order and does furthermore agree to the provisions and sanctions contained herein. The parties freely and voluntarily consent to the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and to the entry of the Order of Discipline:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Dental 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 Practice Act in Article 2, and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners, set forth in 21 North Carolina Administrative Code Chapter 16.

2. Respondent was licensed to practice dentistry on July 1, 1975 and holds license number 4108.
3. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was subject to the Dental Practice Act and the Dental Board's Rules and Regulations.
4. Prior to May 25, 2016, Respondent held an active license to practice dentistry in North Carolina.
5. On April 28, 2016, CDP received information from a medical doctor that Respondent was unsafe to practice dentistry.
6. On May 3, 2016, Respondent signed an Evaluation Agreement with CDP as a voluntary participant.
7. Respondent's agreement with CDP required him to participate in a ninety-six (96) hour inpatient substance abuse assessment.
8. Respondent was scheduled to be admitted for evaluation on May 8, 2016 but failed to do so.
9. Respondent rescheduled the admission for May 16, 2016 and then again for May 23, 2016 but failed to appear for admission on either subsequent occasion.
10. Based upon the medical doctor's opinion that Respondent was not safe to practice dentistry and his subsequent failure to comply with the Evaluation Agreement through CDP, CDP was unable to conceal his identity in their voluntary program and were required by law to report Respondent to the Board pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-48.2(d).

11. Based upon the information received from CDP, the Board found that Respondent constituted a threat to public health, safety or welfare and summarily suspended Respondent's license on May 25, 2016.

12. Respondent has failed to communicate further with CDP or obtain an evaluation or treatment through the Program.

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

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

2. Respondent is a chronic or persistent user of alcohol to the extent that his ability to practice dentistry is impaired, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-41(a)(2).

3. By violating his agreement with CDP, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct and thereby violated the Board's Rules and Regulations, 21 NCAC 16V .0101(13), and N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-41(a)(6) and (a)(12).

4. In light of the medical information received regarding Respondent's inability to safely practice dentistry and Respondent's refusal to follow CDP's recommendations, protection of the public requires that Respondent's dental license be suspended indefinitely unless he can demonstrate that he is safe to resume practice.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and with the consent of the parties hereto, the Board enters:

#### ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

1. Respondent's dental license in North Carolina is hereby **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.**

2. Respondent may seek to lift the indefinite suspension of his North Carolina dental license upon demonstrating, by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent:

- (a) is not impaired and can safely practice dentistry in the state of North Carolina;
- (b) has entered into a CDP Participation Agreement and has complied with its terms prior to filing a petition to lift the suspension with the Dental Board;
- (c) has, for the 12 months immediately preceding his petition to lift the suspension of his North Carolina license, maintained continuous abstinence from alcohol and all drugs, other than those prescribed to him by a treating physician who is aware of his substance abuse issues, which abstinence shall be confirmed through compliance with a CDP Participation Agreement;
- (d) has completed at least a twenty-eight (28) day inpatient treatment to address Respondent's alcohol dependency. The total length of inpatient treatment time must be at least 28 days, but may be longer as determined by Respondent's needs and the recommendations of the inpatient treatment center; and
- (e) has obtained the support and advocacy of CDP including that Respondent is not impaired and can practice dentistry safely in the state of North Carolina.

This the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2016.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

By: Casie S. Goode  
Casie S. Goode  
Assistant Director of Investigations

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

By signing this Statement of Consent I, RONALD REESE, D.D.S. do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDING** my dental license in its entirety and I assent to its terms and conditions set out herein. I freely and voluntarily admit to the findings of fact herein, that the findings of fact support the conclusions of law, that I will not contest the findings of fact, the conclusions of law, or the order of discipline if further disciplinary action is warranted in this matter, and I knowingly waive any potential right to appeal this matter. I hereby express my understanding that the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2016.

Ronald Reese, D.D.S.  
RONALD REESE, D.D.S.