

4. Despite being licensed for 4 years in North Carolina, Respondent has failed to establish a practice in North Carolina and has not worked at any capacity as a dentist in North Carolina since he was granted a license by credentials.

5. Respondent has an active orthodontic practice in California and continues to treat patients and is currently accepting new patients.

6. In March 2009, the Asheville Police Department intercepted a FedEx shipment containing 97 tablets of Codeine/APAP, 200 tablets of Hydrocodone and 200 tablets of Soma. The Respondent was attempting to send this package to his Asheville home from his California orthodontic practice.

7. The Asheville Police Department later seized additional tablets of Codeine/APAP, Ambien and Soma from the Respondent's Asheville residence.

8. From 2002 until the voluntary surrender of his DEA license in 2009, Respondent ordered approximately 12,000 tablets of Hydrocodone, Codeine/APAP, Ambien and Soma from the wholesale drug company, Henry Schein.

9. Respondent diverted a portion of the drugs that he ordered to his wife for the purpose of supplementing the pain medication she was currently receiving from her medical doctor to treat chronic knee and hip pain associated with rheumatoid arthritis. The remainder of the tablets were taken by the Respondent and/or dispensed to his orthodontic patients.

10. Respondent did not maintain a drug log reflecting the manner how these tablets were dispensed.

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 violated N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-36 (e) by failing to establish a practice in North Carolina within one year of being licensed by credentials.
3. Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct in violation of 21 NCAC 16V .0101(7) and N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-41(a)(6) by administering controlled substances for his personal use.
4. Respondent violated N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-41(a)(25) by diverting controlled substances to his wife and to himself.

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

ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

License number 7935 issued to the 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.

This the 5 day of April, 2010.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

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

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Richard Ridgley, DDS, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety and that I do freely and voluntarily admit, exclusively for the purposes of this disciplinary proceeding and any other disciplinary or licensure proceedings before this Board, that there is a factual basis for the allegations set forth therein, that these factual allegations, if proven, are legally sufficient to support findings and conclusions that I have violated G.S. §90-41(a)(6), (25), and G.S. §90-36(e), and I will not contest the factual allegations therein should further disciplinary action be warranted in this matter, and that I assent to the terms and conditions set forth therein. 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 29 day of MARCH, 2010.



RICHARD RIDGLEY, DDS