

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

WILLIAM G. RITCHIE, D.D.S.
(License Number 6461)

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**ORDER SUMMARILY
SUSPENDING LICENSE**

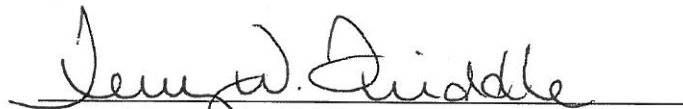
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-3(c), the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) finds that the public health, safety and welfare requires emergency action and hereby summarily suspends License Number 6461 issued to William G. Ritchie, D.D.S. (Respondent), effective upon service of this Order. This action is being taken based on evidence that Respondent has been drinking for many years, but in the past two years, since his father passed away, his drinking has increased dramatically. Recently, Dr. Ritchie only shows up for work 1 to 2 days a week and at other times misses work completely without any notice to staff or patients. When staff receives phone calls from him they are "irrational conversations of someone who has been drinking." On one occasion, Dr. Ritchie woke up on the golf course wearing his scrubs and couldn't remember how he got there. The North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals Program (CDP) requested to meet with Dr. Ritchie on May 2, 2012 for an intervention, but he failed to appear for the meeting and refuses to take their calls. The CDP has spoken to staff and family who all express concerns over Dr. Ritchie's drinking and failure to show up for work. Based on his erratic behavior and refusal to respond or cooperate, the CDP referred Dr. Ritchie to the Board for appropriate action [NCGS 90-48.2(d)].

It is the Board's opinion that Respondent constitutes a threat to the public health, safety and welfare. Therefore, Respondent shall immediately cease the practice of dentistry in North Carolina and surrender his license and current renewal certificate pending further order of the Board.

Respondent has a right to a formal hearing before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners. This matter will be heard by the Board at the next available Board meeting in Morrisville, North Carolina. Respondent will be served with a Notice of Hearing in accordance with G.S. 150B-38(b) scheduling the hearing and containing the allegations to be heard.

This the 14th day of August, 2012.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Friddle", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry W. Friddle
Deputy Operations Officer