

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

In The Matter Of:

JEFFREY F. WEST, D.D.S.
(License No. 4419)

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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. The Respondent, Jeffrey F. West, D.D.S., was represented by Beth Fleishman. Carolin Bakewell represented the Investigative Panel. The parties hereby consent 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 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 and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners.

2. Respondent was licensed to practice dentistry in North Carolina on August 1, 1977 and holds license number 4419.

3. Respondent was subject to the Dental Practice Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations at all times relevant hereto.

4. The Respondent is addicted to alcohol and inhalants. He received treatment for his addiction at Cornerstone, a treatment facility in Knoxville, Tennessee, in January 2012 and at the University of Florida and Shands Florida Recovery Center (hereafter, Shands), from February 28, 2012 until July 27, 2012.

5. Testing conducted in July 2012 indicated that the Respondent has severe neurocognitive deficits as well as difficulties functioning that are related to his narcissistic personality disorder.

6. The Respondent relapsed in June 2012 by taking Klonopin and testosterone during a home pass.

7. Shands has not endorsed the Respondent to return to work.

8. In the Shands discharge summary dated August 3, 2012, Dr. Scott Teitlebaum recommended that the Respondent undergo an additional reassessment six to 12 months after discharge to determine his neurocognitive functioning and recovery from addiction.

9. The Respondent signed a recovery contract with the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals (CDP) on July 30, 2012.

10. The Respondent has begun attempts to sell the dental practice that he owns in Charlotte, North Carolina, but has not yet completed that transaction. The practice has been staffed with locum tenens dentists during the Respondent's treatment in Tennessee and Florida.

11. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and with the consent of the parties hereto, the Hearing Panel enters the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

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

3. The Respondent is mentally, emotionally or physically unfit to practice dentistry or is afflicted with such a physical or mental disability as to be deemed dangerous to the health and welfare of his patients, in violation of G.S. 90-41(a)(7).

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

ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

1. License Number 4419 issued to Respondent for the practice of dentistry in North Carolina is hereby suspended indefinitely, effective immediately.

2. The Respondent may employ locum tenens dentists to work at his dental office, to permit an orderly wind down of the practice until and including February 11, 2013. After the end of the wind down period, the Respondent's dental practice must be closed and he may not employ any locum tenens personnel or maintain an ownership interest in any North Carolina dental practice.

3. The Respondent must not be present in his dental office at any time after the date of this Order.

4. Any petition for reinstatement of the Petitioner's dental license must be accompanied by written evidence that he can safely return to the practice of dentistry and that he has the advocacy of the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals.

This the 17 day of August, 2012.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

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

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, JEFFREY F. WEST, 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 17th day of August, 2012.



JEFFREY F. WEST, D.D.S.