Texas State Board of Dental Examiners Disciplinary Matrix

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VIOLATION TIERS

<u>First Tier Violations</u>: Violations that are distinguished as First Tier Violations are those that the Board determines to be less serious, or which pose minimal threat to public safety, after consideration of any aggravating or mitigating factors.

<u>Second, Third, or Fourth Tier Violations</u>: Violations that are distinguished as Second, Third, or Fourth Tier Violations are those that the Board determines to be more serious, or which pose more than a minimal threat to public safety, after consideration of any aggravating or mitigating factors.

SANCTIONS

The Board will determine an appropriate sanction after consideration of any aggravating or mitigating factors.

When considering conduct constituting a violation of multiple statute sections, the Board will determine an appropriate sanction after consideration of the sanction recommendations from all applicable violation sections and any aggravating or mitigating factors.

NOTE: All Sanctions other than denial of licensure, revocation of license, emergency suspension of license, or surrender of license should include a stipulation requiring completion of the online jurisprudence assessment.

Levels listed from lowest (no action) to highest (revocation):

- Dismissal No disciplinary action. Dismissal may be conditioned.
- Administrative Penalty (Ticket) Fine-based penalty limited to those violations that do not involve the provision of direct patient care.
- Warning Lowest level of disciplinary action.
- Reprimand Increased level of disciplinary action.
- Suspension Increased level of disciplinary action. Suspension may be probated in full be enforced in full or for limited time periods.
 - o Emergency Suspension If a licensee is found by the board or executive committee to constitute a clear, imminent, or continuing threat to a person's physical health or well-being, the person's license or permit will be immediately suspended.
- Revocation of license or certification. Voluntary surrender may be accepted in lieu of revocation.

AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS

The Board will consider all factors required by statute or board rule (e.g., Tex. Occ. Code Chapter 53). In addition, the Board will consider aggravating or mitigating factors, including the following:

- Potential or actual patient harm
- Prior disciplinary action
- Prior violations of a similar nature
- Self-report or voluntary admission of violation
- Remedial measures taken to correct or mitigate harm
- Rehabilitative potential
- Level of competency exhibited over course of career
- Attempts to circumvent a statute or board rule
- Isolated or repeated violation

- Number of violations
- Cooperation with board investigation and response to board communication
- Material or financial gain from violation
- Involvement of, or impairment by alcohol, illegal drugs, or controlled substances
- Criminal conduct
- Other relevant circumstances

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE SCHEDULE

See SBDE Rule §107.202 – 22 Tex. Admin. Code §107.202. The amount of an administrative fine assessed will be based on the following criteria:

- The seriousness of the violation, including but not limited to, the nature, circumstances, extent and the gravity of the prohibited acts and the hazard of potential hazard created to the health, safety, or welfare of the public;
- the economic damage to property or the environment caused by the violation;
- the history of previous violations:
- the amount necessary to deter future violations;
- efforts made to correct the violation; or
- any other matter the justice may require.

Each day a violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for the purpose of imposing a penalty.

First Offense:	Second Offense:	Third Offense:
≤ \$3,000	≤\$4,000	≤\$5,000

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY SCHEDULE (Tickets)

An administrative penalty may consist only of a monetary penalty that does not exceed \$1,000 for each violation. The total amount of penalties assessed against a person may not exceed \$3,000 in a calendar year.

If the Respondent fails to pay or appeal the administrative penalty by the due date, the penalty amount will double, not to exceed the statutory maximum penalty for each violation.

Violation:	Administrative Penalty:
No Consumer Information	\$250.00
Names of Dentists not Posted	\$250.00
Fail to Display Registration (Dental office)	\$250.00
Fail to Provide Records to Board	\$500.00
Fail to Provide Records to Patient	\$500.00
Fail to File Records Maintenance Agreement	\$250.00
Fail to Notify Board of Change of Information	\$250.00
Sanitation and Infection Control	\$500.00
False/Misleading Communications/Unlawful or Deceptive Advertising	\$250.00
Specialty Announcement-	\$250.00
Advertising – Testimonials	\$250.00
Improper Use of Trade Name	\$500.00
No Prosthetic Identification	\$250.00

STANDARD OF CARE

Licensee fails to treat a patient according to the standard of care in the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene.	
Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(4)	
First Tier Violation: • Practice below minimum standard with a low risk of patient harm. • Failure to advise patient before beginning treatment. • Failure to make, maintain and keep adequate dental records.	 Sanction: Conditional dismissal including continuing education and/or restitution to patient for service rendered below minimum standard. Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, administrative fine, restitution to patient for service rendered below minimum standard, and/or audit of practice procedures.
 Second Tier Violation: Practice below minimum standard with patient harm or risk of patient harm. Misleading patient as to the gravity, or lack thereof, of their dental needs. Failure to maintain appropriate life support training. Abandonment of patient. Failure to report patient death or injury requiring hospitalization. Act or omission that demonstrates level of incompetence such that the person should not practice without remediation and subsequent demonstration of competency. 	Sanction: • Warning, Reprimand, or Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: period of enforced suspension, continuing education, administrative fine, restitution to patient, and/or audit of practice procedures.
 Third Tier Violation: Negligence in treatment Any intentional act or omission that risks or results in serious harm. 	 Sanction: Denial, suspension of license, revocation of license or request for voluntary surrender. Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene

Standard of care violations continued on next page

STANDARD OF CARE (continued)

Licensee fails to use proper diligence in practice or fails to safeguard patients. Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(9)	s against avoidable infections.
First Tier Violation: • Failure to properly document compliance with health and sanitation	Sanction: • Administrative Penalty ticket
requirements. Office premises are maintained in compliance with health and sanitation requirements. Low risk of patient harm.	 Conditional dismissal including continuing education, and/or audit of practice procedures.
	Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, administrative fine, and/or audit of practice procedures.
Second Tier Violation:	Sanction:
• Office premises are not maintained in compliance with health and sanitation requirements.	• Warning, Reprimand, or Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: continuing education, restitution to patient, administrative fine,
 Barrier techniques, disinfection, or sterilization techniques do not comply with health and sanitation requirements. 	audit of practice procedures, and/or supervised practice or practice in a group setting.
 Failure to properly document controlled substance inventories or prescription records. 	
• Failure to use reasonable diligence in preventing unauthorized persons from utilizing DEA or DPS permit privileges.	

Licensee is negligent in performing dental services and that negligence causes injury or damage to a dental patient. Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(12)	
	Sanction:
	Denial of licensure or revocation.
	• Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.

Licensee is physically or mentally incapable of practicing in a manner that is safe for the person's dental patients. Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(11)	
	Sanction:
	 Suspension of license pending medical evaluation determining licensee is safe to practice. If evaluation determining licensee is safe to practice is received, then probated suspension with stipulation including regular evaluations for ability to practice safely. Denial of licensure or revocation. Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in light of violation that may be a clear, imminent, or continuing threat to a person's physical health or well-being.

IMPERMISSIBLE DELEGATION

Licensee holds a dental license and employs, permits, or has employed or permitted a person not licensed to practice dentistry to practice dentistry in an office of the dentist that is under the dentist's control or management.		
Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(8)		
First Tier Violation:	Sanction:	
• Impermissible delegation resulting in no more than a minimal risk of patient harm. Isolated incident.	 Conditional dismissal including continuing education and/or restitution to patient. Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, administrative fine, restitution to patient, and/or audit of practice procedures. 	
Second Tier Violation:	Sanction:	
• Impermissible delegation resulting in actual patient harm, or	Reprimand, or Probated Suspension with stipulations that may	
presenting a risk of patient harm.	include: continuing education, administrative fine, restitution to	
• Repeated incidents or pattern of impermissible delegation.	patient, and/or audit of practice procedures.	

DISHONORABLE OR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

<u>NOTE</u>: Violations under this section may also constitute violations under sections such as those related to criminal conduct, chemical dependency, or improper distribution of a drug.

Licensee practices dentistry or dental hygiene in a manner that constitutes dishonorable conduct. Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(3)	
First Tier Violation:	Sanction:
Isolated dishonorable conduct resulting in no adverse patient effects.	 Conditional Dismissal including continuing education. Elements normally related to dishonesty, fraud or deceit deemed to be unintentional. Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, administrative fine, supervised practice or practice in a group setting, audit of practice procedures, and/or limitations on sedation or controlled substance permits.
 Second Tier Violation: Repeated acts of dishonorable conduct or dishonorable conduct which places a patient or the public at risk of harm. Dishonorable conduct which impairs a person's ability to treat a patient according to the standard of care. Dispensing, administering, prescribing, or distributing drugs for a non-dental purpose. Failure to meet duty of fair dealing in advising, treating, or billing patient. Diagnosis of dental disease, prescription of medication, or performance of impermissible acts by dental hygienist. Practicing dental hygiene without required supervision. 	 Sanction: Warning, Reprimand, or Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: continuing education, restitution to patient for financial exploitation, administrative fine, supervised practice or practice in a group setting, and/or limitations on sedation or controlled substance permits. Denial of Licensure, Suspension or Revocation of Licensure. If violation involves mishandling or improper documentation of controlled substances, misdemeanor crimes or criminal conduct involving alcohol, drugs or controlled substances, then the stipulations will also include mandatory evaluation and enrollment in a Board approved peer assistance program, and abstention from unauthorized use of drugs and alcohol, to be verified by random drug testing.
Third Tier Violation:	Sanction:
 Failure to comply with a substantive board rule regarding dishonorable conduct resulting in serious patient harm. Repeated acts of dishonorable conduct or dishonorable conduct which results in harm to a patient or the public. Sexual or sexualized conduct with patient. Financial exploitation or dishonorable conduct resulting in a material or financial loss to a patient in excess of \$4,999. 	 Denial of licensure or revocation of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene. Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

NOTE: Deferred Adjudication may be considered as a conviction after consideration of factors outlined in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 53.

NOTE: Violations under this section may also constitute dishonorable or unprofessional conduct violations.

Licensee is convicted of a misdemeanor involving fraud or a felony under federal law or the law of any state.	
Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(2)	
First Tier Violation:	Sanction:
Misdemeanor conviction involving fraud	Warning, Reprimand or Probated Suspension with stipulations that
	may include: continuing education, and/or administrative fine.
Second Tier Violation:	Sanction:
• Felony conviction	Denial of licensure or revocation of license to practice dentistry or
	dental hygiene. Voluntary surrender of license may be accepted.
	Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental
	hygiene

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY OR IMPROPER POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION OF DRUG

NOTE: Violations under this section may also constitute dishonorable or unprofessional conduct violations.

Licensee is addicted to or habitually intemperate in the use of alcoholic distributed habit-forming drugs or narcotics. Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(7)	c beverages or drugs or has improperly obtained, possessed, used, or
First Tier Violation:	Sanction:
 Misuse of drugs or alcohol without patient interaction and no risk of patient harm or adverse patient effects. No previous history of misuse and no other aggravating circumstances. 	 Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: continuing education, supervised practice or practice in a group setting, limitations on sedation or controlled substance permits, random drug screens, and/or enrollment in a Board approved peer assistance program.
Second Tier Violation:	Sanction:
 Improperly distributes habit-forming drugs or narcotics Prescribes or dispenses a controlled substance for a non-dental purpose. Prescribes or dispenses a controlled substance to a person who is not a dental patient, or to a patient without adequate diagnosis of the need for prescription. 	 Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: period of enforced suspension, mandatory evaluation and enrollment in a Board approved peer assistance program, and abstention from unauthorized use of drugs and alcohol, to be verified by random drug testing, continuing education, supervised practice or practice in a group setting, and/or limitations on sedation or controlled substance permits.
Third Tier Violation:	Sanction:
 Misuse of drugs or alcohol with a risk of patient harm or adverse patient effects. Misuse of drugs or alcohol and other serious practice violation noted. 	• Enforced or Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: period of enforced suspension, mandatory evaluation and enrollment in a Board approved peer assistance program, and abstention from unauthorized use of drugs and alcohol, to be verified by random drug testing, continuing education, supervised practice or practice in a group setting, and/or limitations on sedation or controlled substance permits.
Fourth Tier Violation:	Sanction:
 Misuse of drugs or alcohol with significant physical injury or death of a patient or a risk of significant physical injury or death. 	 Denial of licensure, suspension of license, revocation of license or request for voluntary surrender. Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene

FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION

NOTE: Violations under this section may also constitute dishonorable or unprofessional conduct violations.

Licensee obtains a license by fraud or misrepresentation.	
Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(6)	
First Tier Violation:	Sanction:
• Failure to honestly and accurately provide information that may have affected the Board's determination of whether to grant or renew a license.	 Conditional dismissal including continuing education. Elements normally related to dishonesty, fraud or deceit are deemed to be unintentional. Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, and/or administrative fine.
Second Tier Violation:	Sanction:
• Intentional misrepresentation of previous licensure, education, or professional character, including failure to disclose criminal	Denial of licensure or revocation of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.
convictions.	 Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.

Licensee engages in deception or misrepresentation in soliciting or obtaining patronage.

Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(5)

Violation:

- Engaging in false advertising.
- Creating unjustified expectation.
- Engaging in false, misleading or deceptive referral schemes.
- Failing to comply with requirements relating to professional signs.
- Failure to list at least one dentist practicing under a trade name in an advertisement
- Falsely advertising as a specialist in one of the ADA recognized specialties or advertising as a specialist in an area not recognized by the ADA.
- Other violations as assigned by rule.

Sanction:

- For a first violation of advertising restrictions, no sanction will be pursued until an opportunity to cure has been provided pursuant to statutory requirements.
- Administrative Penalty ticket
- Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: cure of violation, continuing education, and/or administrative fine.

VIOLATION OF LAW REGULATING DENTISTRY OR DENTAL HYGIENE

<u>NOTE</u>: A violation of any law relating to the regulation of dentists or dental hygienists, including those law violations expressed elsewhere in this matrix, will also be considered a violation of the Dental Practice Act, at Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(10).

Licensee violates or refuses to comply with a law relating to the regulation of dentists or dental hygienists.

Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(10)

First Tier Violation:

- Isolated failure to make, maintain and keep adequate dental records not resulting in patient harm.
- Failure to notify patients that complaints concerning dental services can be directed to the Board.
- Failure to post names of, degrees received by, and schools attended by each dentist practicing in office. Failure to properly exclude names of dentists not practicing in office.
- Failure to place identifying mark on a removable prosthetic device.
- Failure to notify the Board of maintenance of records agreement.
- First Tier violation of another law regulating dentists or dental hygienists.

Second Tier Violation:

- Failure to make, maintain and keep adequate dental records resulting in potential for patient harm.
- Failure to obtain written, signed informed consent.
- Failure to provide full dental records to the Board upon request.
- Failure to maintain an appropriate permit for a mobile dental facility.
- Perform treatment outside licensee's scope of practice not resulting in patient harm.
- Prescription of controlled substance while DPS or DEA permit is expired.
- Second Tier violation of another law regulating dentists or dental hygienists.

Third Tier Violation:

- Failure to make, maintain and keep adequate dental records resulting in actual patient harm.
- Violation of stipulation in a prior Board Order.
- Perform treatment outside licensee's scope of practice resulting in patient harm or potential for patient harm.
- Prescription of controlled substance without DPS or DEA permit.
- Third Tier or Fourth Tier violation of another law regulating dentists or dental hygienists.

Sanction:

- Administrative Penalty ticket.
- Conditional dismissal including continuing education, and or audit of practice procedures.

Sanction:

- Conditional dismissal including continuing education, restitution to patient for service provided without informed consent, and/or audit of practice procedures.
- Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, administrative fine, restitution to patient for service provided, and/or audit of practice procedures.

Sanction:

- Reprimand or Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: enforced suspension of license until licensee obtains compliance with all stipulations in prior Board Orders, continuing education, restitution to patient, and/or administrative fine.
- Denial of licensure or revocation.
- Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.

VIOLATION OF LAW REGULATING DENTISTRY OR DENTAL HYGIENE (continued)

Licensee knowingly provides or agrees to provide dental care in a manner that violates a federal or state law that: regulates a plan to provide, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any part of the cost of dental care services; or regulates the business of insurance. Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(14)	
	 Sanction: Reprimand or Probated Suspension with stipulations that may include: continuing education, administrative fine, repayment of any funds gained in violation of applicable law. Denial of licensure or revocation. Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.

Licensee holds a license or certificate in another state and that state reprimands the licensee, suspends or revokes the licensee's license or certificate or places the licensee on probation, or imposes another restriction on the licensee's practice. Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(13) First Tier Violation: Sanction: • License or certificate is reprimanded or restricted in another • Conditional dismissal including continuing education, and/or audit of jurisdiction. The action leading to the reprimand or restriction did not practice procedures. cause patient harm or risk patient harm. Second Tier Violation: Sanction: • License or certificate is reprimanded or restricted in another • Warning, Reprimand, or Probated Suspension with stipulations that jurisdiction. The action leading to the reprimand or restriction caused may include: continuing education, administrative fine, and/or audit patient harm or caused a risk of patient harm. of practice procedures. • Failure to report disciplinary action received in another jurisdiction. Third Tier Violation: Sanction: • License or certificate is suspended, revoked, or placed on probation in • Denial of licensure, revocation, or voluntary surrender. another jurisdiction. • Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental • License or certificate is reprimanded or restricted in another hygiene jurisdiction for action that caused severe patient harm or death.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §256.001	
	n: ance of Cease and Desist Order with referral of all information to law enforcement.

Licensee is adjudged under the law to be insane.	
Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §263.002(a)(1)	
	Sanction:
	 Denial of licensure or revocation of license to practice dentistry or
	dental hygiene.
	Emergency suspension of license to practice dentistry or dental
	hygiene.

DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Permitted Duties	
Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §265.003	
<u>First Tier Violation</u> :	Sanction:
• Failure to comply with procedural Board rule such as failure to timely	Conditional dismissal including continuing education.
complete continuing education to maintain a Board-issued	Denial of certification or revocation of certificates.
certification.	
Second Tier Violation:	Sanction:
• Practices dentistry or dental hygiene, or otherwise performs activities	Denial of certification or revocation of certificates.
outside the scope of permitted duties for dental assistants.	

DENTAL LABORATORIES

Registration Required	
Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §266.151	
<u>Violation</u> :	Sanction:
• Operation of a dental laboratory or offer to provide dental laboratory	• Issuance of Cease and Desist Order with referral of all information to
services without a registration certificate.	local law enforcement.

Certified Dental Technician

Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §266.152

Violation:

• Failure to have at least one dental technician working on the laboratory's premises who is certified by a recognized board of certification for dental technology.

Sanction:

- Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, and/or administrative fine.
- Denial of certification or revocation of certification.

Applicant or certificate holder has violated, aided another person, or allowed a person under their direction to violate a law regulating the practice of dentistry.

Dental Practice Act (DPA), Tex. Occ. Code §266.251

Violation:

- Failure to obtain written work orders or prescriptions from a licensed dentist, and maintain appropriate records.
- Failure to keep premises and records open to inspection during working hours.
- Failure to comply with the requirements for notification of change of ownership.

Sanction:

- Warning or Reprimand with stipulations that may include: continuing education, and/or administrative fine.
- Denial of certification or revocation of certification.