

# BoardMatters

An Update from the Dental Board of California



MAY 2023

## President's Message



I am Dr. Alan Felsenfeld and serve as president of the Dental Board of California. My career has spanned more than 45 years practicing as a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Los Angeles, as well as teaching at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry.

Our board is one of 36 boards and bureaus within the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). It is established by statute and is responsible for licensing and regulating dentists and dental assistants. The Dental Hygiene Board of California is a separate board that licenses and regulates dental hygienists. There are approximately 40,000 dentists in California and 60,000 dental assistants, so the Board is responsible for setting the duties and functions for 100,000 practitioners. The Board's primary goal is to protect the public.

The Dental Board of California has many functions, but the two primary ones, in my opinion, are licensing of health care professionals and enforcement. Enforcement includes handling complaints, investigating reported violations, and referring violators for prosecution. In addition, the Board monitors trends in dental care in the state. We are concerned about issues within dentistry, such as equity and access, the opioid crisis, diversion and recovery programs, and creating opportunities for qualified staff.

The Board has 15 members: eight practicing dentists, one registered dental hygienist, one registered dental assistant, and five public members who are non-dentists. One dentist member must be on a faculty of a dental school, and one dentist member must practice in a community health clinic regardless of specialty. The governor appoints 13 of the members, and the Senate Committee on Rules and the speaker of the Assembly appoint one member each. At present, there are three public member vacancies. Anyone interested in serving on the Board may request an application by going to the DCA [website](#).

The California Legislature passes laws that impact the dental profession and tells the Board what to do. It is the Board's responsibility to craft regulations that tell us how to do it. In evaluating and developing regulations, the Board works with the public and professional organizations, such as the California Dental Association (CDA), the California Dental Assistants Association (CDAA), and the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT). Regulations are intended to implement and clarify the laws, and to make them specific to the Dental Board. For example, Senate Bill (SB) 501 (Glazer, Chapter 929, Statutes of 2018) significantly changed how the Board issues and regulates anesthesia and sedation permits. To implement the new SB 501 statutes, the Board promulgated regulations in 2022 after extensive public comment.

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### Table of Contents

President's Message.....1

Executive Officer's  
Message.....2

Supporting Military  
Members and Their  
Families.....3

Changes to Anesthesia and  
Sedation Permits Introduced  
by Senate Bill 501.....4

Mark Your Calendars!  
Upcoming Board Meetings ....4

Continuing Education  
Audits Are Back.  
Are You Prepared?.....5

Enforcement—Interagency  
Coordination Highlight.....5

The Hot Sheet:  
Administrative Actions Taken  
July–December 2022.....6

Email Us!.....8





*President's Message continued from page 1*

At the Board's most recent meeting on February 9–10, 2023, among other things, the Board discussed proposing to the California Legislature further functional amendments to SB 501, as well as looking at the Board's overall enforcement criteria. Dental practitioners and the public are encouraged to attend the Board's quarterly meetings. Meeting dates and materials are accessible on the Board's website at [www.dbc.ca.gov](http://www.dbc.ca.gov).

I want to welcome our most recent additions to the board: Dr. Joni Forge and Dr. Yogita Thakur. Dr. Forge is a practicing dentist in Long Beach, and Dr. Thakur is chief dental officer at Ravenswood Family Health Network.

Finally, the Board has an excellent and knowledgeable staff of 84 people. I am delighted to report the Board has worked steadily to resolve its lack of staff that is all too familiar in the current economy, so all of the Board's staff positions are now filled or in the final process of being filled. This will allow even greater efficiency in the Board's work. Many people worked hard to get us fully staffed, but especially Dr. Tracy Montez, the Board's new executive officer. The Board welcomes Dr. Montez, who in a very short time has done a wonderful job of analyzing the Board's needs and fixing and reinforcing areas, so that the Board can better serve its licensees and the public.

If you have any questions, you can email the Board at [DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov).

## Executive Officer's Message



Greetings! I am Tracy Montez, writing as the (relatively) new executive officer of the Board. Although I began a temporary assignment in August 2022, my position became official on November 1, 2022.

The Board administers three types of licenses and issues 12 types of permits, such as moderate sedation permits to dentists and orthodontic assistant permits. Board staff also investigate complaints and enforce Dental Practice Act statutes and supporting regulations.

Now a bit about me. I began my career with DCA as a graduate research assistant with the Office of Examination Resources, now known as the Office of Professional Examination Services. At that time, I was in a master's program at California State University, Sacramento. I earned my doctorate in industrial and organizational psychology at Kansas State University. After returning to Sacramento to develop and administer promotional examinations, I rejoined DCA and eventually became a division chief. I thoroughly valued working at DCA headquarters and serving DCA's 3,000-plus employees.

Overall, my time at DCA has mainly been in the professional testing arena. I have enjoyed educating DCA employees, applicants, licensees, board members, legislators, and stakeholders about licensing examination development, and especially how licensing examinations are different from the examinations we all took in school. Licensing examinations do not test how well someone learned or how good they might be at their job; they help ensure that only those individuals who are competent to practice receive a license. Every day, DCA employees make decisions, including about examination, that impact California consumers.

When I began my temporary assignment with the Board, the plan was to return to my division chief position once the Board members appointed a new executive officer (EO). During my assignment, however, I found a group of dedicated employees who feel very strongly about the regulation of dental assisting and dentistry. They arrive to work committed to the Board and strive every day to make a positive difference in the lives of applicants, licensees, and consumers. I decided to apply for the EO position, and, well, the rest is history. I have a new home, still within DCA, but now in "Board-land" as we like to call it.

Happy Spring!

# Supporting Military Members and Their Families



Licensing and permitting can cause employment hardship to members of the military and their spouses or domestic partners. These families face disruptions when service members are called to active duty, transition from military service, or move to California to take a new duty station. DCA and the Board can assist with managing these changes. For more details on the options described below, visit the DCA military resources website:

[www.dca.ca.gov/military](http://www.dca.ca.gov/military).

## Renewal Requirements Waiver

Licensee service members called to active duty can seek a waiver for renewal fees, continuing education requirements, and other renewal requirements. To qualify, a licensee must have a current and valid license and document that they have been called to active duty. The waiver lasts as long as the licensee is on active duty, and the licensee cannot be in private practice during this time. When discharged from active duty service, the licensee must notify the Board within 60 days. The licensee will have six months from the date of discharge to comply with any renewal requirements.

## Expedited Processing

Honorably discharged service members can seek expedited processing of their license applications. They must provide evidence of their honorable discharge. Qualified spouses

and domestic partners of active duty military members also can seek expedited processing. In addition, their initial application and license fees are waived. They must hold a current license or permit in the profession for which they are seeking California licensure and document their relationship with an active duty service member. Expedited processing does not guarantee that a license will be issued; it only means that application processing will be accelerated.

## Temporary Licensure

Effective July 1, 2023, qualified spouses and domestic partners of military service members may apply for a temporary license and/or permit. A temporary license or permit is valid for up to 12 months and allows the recipient to practice while their regular application is being processed. An applicant must be the spouse or domestic partner of a service member assigned to a duty station in California. An applicant also must hold a license or permit from another U.S. state or jurisdiction which has the same scope as the license or permit they are seeking in California. If an applicant is seeking temporary licensure as a dentist, they also must pass the California Law and Ethics examination. The Board is developing regulations for temporary licensure, and the proposed regulations will be available under [Laws and Regulations](#) on the Board's website once they have been noticed with the Office of Administrative Law.

# Changes to Anesthesia and Sedation Permits Introduced by Senate Bill 501

On January 1, 2022, Senate Bill (SB) 501 (Glazer, Chapter 929, Statutes of 2018) significantly changed how the Board issues anesthesia and sedation permits. The Board implemented these statutory changes through the [SB 501 Anesthesia and Sedation Regulatory File](#), which took effect on August 16, 2022. The changes include:

- There are new patient monitoring requirements when administering moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia to patients under age 13.
- General Anesthesia (GA) and Medical General Anesthesia (MGA) permit holders must apply for a new Pediatric Endorsement to administer deep sedation or general anesthesia to patients under age 7.
- Conscious Sedation (CS) permits are no longer issued or renewed. You must apply for a new Moderate Sedation (MS) permit to administer or order the administration of moderate sedation.
- MS permit holders must apply for a new Pediatric Endorsement to administer moderate sedation to pediatric patients. There are two categories of MS Pediatric Endorsement: for all patients under age 13; and for patients ages 7–12 only.

- Oral Conscious Sedation for Minors (OCS-M) permits are no longer issued or renewed. You must apply for a new Pediatric Minimal Sedation (PMS) permit to administer or order the administration of pediatric minimal sedation to patients under age 13.

Permitholders and new applicants can review [Senate Bill \(SB\) 501 Anesthesia and Sedation Regulations Approval](#) for additional information. For applications and details on each permit, go to [Information for Applicants](#) on the Board’s website. If you have additional questions, please contact Anesthesia Unit staff at (916) 263-2300 or [AU.Program@dca.ca.gov](mailto:AU.Program@dca.ca.gov).



## Mark Your Calendars!

### Upcoming Board Meetings

• <b>May 18–19, 2023</b>	<b>Anaheim</b>
• <b>August 17–18, 2023</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
• <b>October 13, 2023</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
• <b>November 8–9, 2023</b>	<b>San Diego</b>

Board meetings provide updates on licensing, examinations, enforcement statistics, and legislative and regulatory work. They will be held onsite and via [DCA webcasts](#), enabling you to attend virtually.

Come prepared with questions about agenda items. Help make a difference, come with an open mind, and bring a spirit of fellowship. Let us create the kind of change that will promote consumer protection. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at [DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov).

For information about a meeting and the link to the webcasts, go to [Board Meetings](#) on the Board’s website and click on the meeting agenda.

# Continuing Education Audits Are Back. Are You Prepared?

Beginning in 2023, the Board will conduct random continuing education (CE) audits of active licensees each month.

## What Are the CE Requirements?

To renew a license or permit, you must complete the following CE requirements:

1. A two-unit, Board-approved Infection Control course.
2. A two-unit, Board-approved course on the California Dental Practice Act.
3. A maximum of four units of a course in Basic Life Support.

If you are a dentist, you also must complete:

4. A two-unit, Board-approved course on responsibilities and requirements of prescribing Schedule II opioid drugs.

Typically, one unit equals one hour of instruction. The total units required for renewal are:

License or Permit Type	Units
Dentist	50
General Anesthesia Permit	24
Moderate Sedation Permit	15
Oral Conscious Sedation—Adult (OCS-A) Permit	7
Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)	25
RDA in Extended Functions (RDAEF)	25
Dental Sedation Assistant Permit	25
Orthodontic Assistant Permit	25
Special Permit (Faculty)	25

General Anesthesia, Moderate Sedation, and OCS-A permit holders are required to complete CE relative to the permit type. Contact the Board’s Anesthesia Unit at [AU.Program@dca.ca.gov](mailto:AU.Program@dca.ca.gov) if you would like more information about these requirements.

If you hold more than one license or permit, the total number of required units is the total required for one of them, whichever is larger. For example, if you hold a dentist license and an OCS-A permit, you must complete 50 hours, not 57.

Go to [Continuing Education](#) on the Board’s website for more information on CE requirements, providers, and audits.

## Does Online or Remote Instruction Count?

Yes, but courses without live instruction are correspondence courses, which cannot count for more than 50% of the unit total. The Basic Life Support course must include a live, in person skills practice session.

## What Should Licensees Expect?

The Board will mail audit notices to the address of record to randomly selected licensees. If you are selected, you will have 30 days from the date of notice to respond with all requested CE documentation. Photocopies are accepted.

If you have questions, please contact the Board at (916) 263-2300 or [DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov).

# Enforcement—Interagency Coordination Highlight

To protect consumers, the Board operates an enforcement program to investigate violations of the Dental Practice Act, including practicing dentistry in California without a license. Trained Board staff work with other law enforcement agencies to catch unlicensed practitioners. The Board is currently working with the Los Angeles County Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force (HALT) to investigate complaints of the unlicensed practice of dentistry in homes, garages, and dental labs. HALT consists mainly of Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department detectives and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health employees. More information on HALT can be viewed at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health [website](#) (enter “HALT” in the site’s search bar).





# The Hot Sheet

## Administrative Actions Taken July–December 2022



The Board's Enforcement Unit investigates reported criminal and administrative violations in the dental profession. If violations are substantiated, suspected violators are referred for prosecution.

Note: The table below shows administrative actions taken in the most recently completed half of the fiscal year. To see current actions taken, visit the Board's [Hot Sheets](#) webpage.

Licensee Name	License No.	Action	Effective Date
Amani, Baktash	DDS 101350	Accusation Filed	7/21/2022
Anderson, Sean	DDS 42519	Early Termination of Probation	11/14/2022
Barahona, Karina	RDA 66852	Revocation	10/24/2022
Bell, Miranda	RDA 92173	4 Years Probation	12/8/2022
Bittner, Gerald	DDS 33725	Public Repeal	12/8/2022
Bosh, Inna	DDS 58251	Revocation	9/12/2022
Calderon, Becky	RDA 77021	Revocation	8/12/2022
Castillo, Jessica	RDA 89224	Revocation	12/22/2022
Chapman, Gary	DDS 101870	Voluntary Surrender	10/20/2022
Cliniciu, Adrian Teodor	DDS 54653	First Amended Accusation Filed	9/23/2022
Cohen, A. Patric	DDS 32952	23 Months Probation	7/6/2022
Cornehl, Jarrod	DDS 52365	3 Years Probation	11/14/2022
Crawford, Jausaline Bri'Shay	RDA 90161	Revocation	8/6/2022
D'Angelo, Joseph	DDS 35241	3 Years Probation	12/8/2022
Dhillon, Nirlep	DDS 54779	Voluntary Surrender	8/26/2022
Dowling, David	DDS 22340	Voluntary Surrender	11/14/2022
Duardo, Janeth	RDA 75180	Accusation Filed	10/7/2022
Edwards, James	DDS 102278	5 Years Probation	12/22/2022
Elder, Jack	DDS 55157	Voluntary Surrender	11/24/2022
Farokhian, Farshin	DDS 49515	18 Months Probation	8/12/2022
Garel, Howard James	DDS 103275	Voluntary Surrender	7/15/2022
Garibay, Lydia	RDA 81605	Revocation	12/22/2022
Gim, Jason	DDS 51336	3 Years Probation	8/21/2022
Green, Franklin	DDS 31616	Accusation Filed	8/17/2022
Guirguis, Michael	DDS 61154	First Amended Accusation Filed	10/20/2022

Continued on page 7

*The Hot Sheet continued from page 6*

Licensee Name	License No.	Action	Effective Date
Harris, Terese	RDA 67903	Revocation	8/12/2022
Heriford, Whitney	RDA 90886	Revocation	9/12/2022
Joshi, Vinit	DDS 56917	30 Months Probation	11/14/2022
Khamis, Rafid	DDS 50477	Public Repeval	8/14/2022
Lemon, Jennifer A.	RDA 95187	Accusation Filed	8/4/2022
Lowe, Justin	RDA 80963 RDAEF 36188	Voluntary Surrender	9/29/2022
Mai, Vu V.	DDS 47942	Accusation Filed	7/5/2022
Matin, Gulalai	DDS 43199	35 Months Probation	7/6/2022
McAllister, John	DDS 39045	Accusation Filed	10/24/2022
Mehr, Ashley	RDA 75946	Revocation	11/14/2022
Milnes, Tara	RDA 30629	Accusation Filed	9/13/2022
Moore, Gary	DDS 102344	Voluntary Surrender	11/4/2022
Movahhedi, Iraj	DDS 42373	5 Years Probation	12/22/2022
Mrktchyan, Silva	DDS 56099	Accusation Filed	10/24/2022
Mungcal, Adonis	DDS 38566	Public Repeval	12/8/2022
Nguyen, Khuong	DDS 44965	30 Months Probation	12/8/2022
Nguyen, Nick Khanh	DDS 48838	Public Repeval	7/8/2022
Ortega, Valerie	RDA 72082	Accusation Filed	9/23/2022
Parra, Melissa	RDA 62358	4 Years Probation	8/25/2022
Partovi, Farhad	DDS 41510	Public Repeval	8/14/2022
Pedersen, Chelsea Nicole	RDA 82115	Accusation Filed	8/4/2022
Peralez, Marina	RDA 73611	3 Years Probation	8/25/2022
Perfecto, Manuel	DDS 42870	35 Months Probation	8/25/2022
Phan, David	DDS 63122	Public Repeval	9/12/2022
Purps, Sabine	DDS 47157	Accusation Filed	9/13/2022
Rhee, Sunki	DDS 52678	Accusation Filed	9/22/2022
Riaz, Samreen	DDS 62312	Accusation Filed	8/17/2022
Rice, Taylor	DDS 62633	2 Years Probation	9/12/2022
Salas, Andres	RDA 95166	Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation Filed	12/22/2022

*Continued on page 8*



The Hot Sheet continued from page 7

Licensee Name	License No.	Action	Effective Date
Samuel, Akram I.	DDS 53481	5 Years Probation	7/5/2022
Sanchez, Arafat	RDA 69529	Revocation	11/14/2022
Sanders, Lejae	RDA 92133	Accusation Filed	10/7/2022
Sawa, Shlaimon	DDS 30640	3 Years Probation	8/14/2022
Shaheedy, Haleh	DDS 42416	Accusation Filed	10/24/2022
Silgureo, Levon	RDA 73308	Revocation	9/12/2022
Spencer, Durwood	DDS 104289	Petition to Revoke Probation Filed	11/7/2022
Tran, Frank	DDS 54661	Accusation Filed	8/30/2022
Wahab, Aamir A.	DDS 59024	5 Years Probation	7/8/2022
Webb, David Evans	DDS 64254	Accusation Filed	8/4/2022
Wei, Roger	DDS 63196	Accusation Filed	11/16/2022
Welbourne, Maria	RDA 93927	Revocation Effective	8/21/2022
Westerberg, Linnea	DDS 42483	Public Repeval	12/22/2022
Whitt, Alyssa	RDA 75340	Revocation	11/14/2022
Zadeh, Homayoun	DDS 35503	Accusation Filed	8/30/2022
Zakhor, Mansour	DDS 57904	Public Repeval	12/8/2022
Zambrano, Margarita	RDA 49809	Accusation Filed	12/6/2022

## Email Us!

To help the Board assist you, please send an email with your question or request to one of the following addresses:

### Licensing and Examination Unit

[DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov)

### Dental Assisting Program

[DA.Program@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DA.Program@dca.ca.gov)

### Complaint and Compliance Unit

[DentalBoardComplaints@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoardComplaints@dca.ca.gov)

### Anesthesia Unit

[AU.Program@dca.ca.gov](mailto:AU.Program@dca.ca.gov)

