

# BoardMatters

An Update from the Dental Board of California



NOVEMBER 2023

## President's Message



Alan L. Felsenfeld, M.A., DDS

While the Board still has one in-person quarterly meeting left in this calendar year, it continues to be very busy during the time between meetings. As you will see in Dr. Montez' message, we have been processing licensure applications for the new dentists who have graduated this past year from dental schools both in California and out of state, as well as for dentists who applied by credential or by the completion of an approved postgraduate year one (PGY-1) residency in general dentistry. When the applications we receive are complete, the process is smooth. When our dentist and dental auxiliary applicants fail to "check the boxes" or "fill in the blanks," it slows the issuance of licenses.

The recent changes in the anesthesia and deep sedation permit statutes and regulations are being applied as renewals come due for the holders of those permits. Applications for the new pediatric minimal sedation and moderate sedation permits, as well as for the moderate sedation and general anesthesia pediatric endorsements, are being processed efficiently with little or no interruption in patient care for our licensees.

The California Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health, consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 501 (Glazer, Chapter 929, Statutes of 2018), has contracted with the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research to collect data and report on access to dental general anesthesia and moderate sedation in California. Those of us with general anesthesia or moderate sedation permits may be contacted to participate in this survey. I urge all of us to cooperate and complete the survey. This data will be used to assess the impact of SB 501 requirements on access to care.

As I indicated in my previous message, enforcement is a significant part of our function and consistent with our mission. The Board receives about 350 complaints each month, and they are all reviewed as they come in. A percentage do not go forward because they are outside the Board's jurisdiction. Complaints involving standard of care are forwarded to our subject matter experts for determination of possible violations of the Dental Practice Act (DPA). Of these complaints, another percentage are dismissed at this stage if they cannot be substantiated, there are no violations, or the licensee's treatment is found to meet the standard of care. Complaints that are substantiated and involve treatment that appears to violate standard of care are investigated by Board staff. Many of these can be resolved at this investigative level. Depending upon the severity of the violations, the case may be resolved through enforcement actions, such as public reprimand or citation, or through formal discipline, in the form of an accusation filed by the Board's executive officer and heard by an administrative law judge. At times, formal disciplinary cases are resolved through stipulated settlement. We, as Board members, are asked to consider and act on about 12-15 formal disciplinary cases each month.

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Dentist license applicants should note that the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) examination is no longer offered as a licensure examination as of December 31, 2022. The Board continues to accept applications for licensure through the WREB pathway if the applicant has passed all required sections of the WREB examination within the five years preceding the date of application. Going forward, successful completion of the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) examination is the only option for a licensure examination.

The WREB has merged with the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) and the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA) to form the new entity CDCA-WREB-CITA, which has been administering the ADEX at Board-approved dental schools. Information on the ADEX is available at the CDCA-WREB-CITA website, <https://adextesting.org>. The Board has not been made aware of any problems for California license applicants following the merger, and it has helped to simplify the application process for Board staff and possibly applicants, as well. Board staff have been in communication with CDCA-WREB-CITA throughout the merger to clarify any changes, and the Board will adjust its processes as needed. Feel free to contact the Board if you have any questions or concerns about the elimination of the WREB.

The work of the Board continues year-round, and we are guided by our mission to protect the public when exercising licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions.

My hopes are that all of you will have a wonderful holiday season.

## Executive Officer's Message



Tracy Montez

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2023. As the end of the year approaches, it's a good time to reflect on Board activities and plans for the upcoming year.

After a hiatus, the Board has revived its standing committees. Specifically, the Enforcement, Access to Care, and Anesthesia committees have submitted reports to the Board this year during Board meetings. The Enforcement Committee has been working with Board staff as part of the Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) Enlighten Enforcement Project. This project was launched to make enforcement processes more efficient by identifying areas for improvement and implementing best practices. The Access to Care Committee has been working to address the workforce shortage in dental assisting and possible barriers to licensure. The Anesthesia Committee has been working with licensees and stakeholder groups to identify issues related to the statutory changes made by SB 501 (Glazer, Chapter 929, Statutes of 2018). These issues may be corrected through future amendments to regulations.

To better inform consumers and dental professionals, the Board participated in three outreach events this year—in Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego. See page 10 for more about these events.

The Board also is updating its website to better inform stakeholders and further the Board's mission of consumer protection. We will be updating dentistry and dental assisting licensing information, modernizing website features, and making it easier to find important Board, applicant, licensee, consumer, and enforcement information.

Despite what you may have heard, processing of complete dentist and dental assistant applications and permits has been consistently maintained at 30 days or less. After a few years of backlog, I am happy to report this achievement. It is the result of filling staff vacancies in the Board's licensing units and coordinated efforts by a great team of managers and staff.

Finally, the Board is scheduled for sunset review in 2024 and is preparing its report for the sunset review oversight hearing. I look forward to showcasing the achievements and progress made by the Board as we continue to collaborate with DCA, stakeholder associations, licensees, and consumers.

Happy holidays!

## Dental Board Sunset Review Has Begun

Every board and bureau in DCA is subject to oversight by the relevant policy committees of the California State Legislature. Each year, several boards and bureaus go before the committees and go through what is called the sunset review process. It is called “sunset” review because the authority of each board expires, or sunsets, on a specified date in law. However, the sunset review is typically completed several months before that date.

The Board has started its sunset review process because its authority is set to sunset on January 1, 2025. Board staff drafted a report for the Board to review and approve at the October 2023 meeting. That draft report is available online as part of the materials for that meeting. The report will be finalized and submitted to the Legislature by the end of this year.

The Board will go before the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development during the spring

of 2024. The Board president and executive officer will both present testimony and answer questions from members of the Legislature, and the public will have an opportunity to provide public comment. The public can provide comment during the hearing, and they can also submit their comments in writing through the [Position Letter Portal](#).

As part of this hearing process, the Assembly and Senate committees will prepare a background paper concerning the Board, its operations, and other issues. The Board will prepare a response to that paper. The hearing, the background paper, and the Board’s response will inform a sunset bill introduced by the committees. The sunset bill, among other things, sets the next sunset date for the Board. The Board will submit recommended legislative proposals (discussed and approved at prior meetings) that could be part of this sunset bill.

As this process continues, we will keep you informed.

## 2023 Legislation of Interest

The 2023 legislative year ended on September 14, and the last day for the governor to sign bills for the year was October 14. Bills signed into law are called chaptered bills. Unless otherwise specified in the bill, bills chaptered this year will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Some new laws directly affect the Board and its stakeholders. These chaptered bills can be read and studied on the California Legislative Information website: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. Enter the bill number in the Quick Bill Search box to find specific bills.

**Assembly Bill (AB) 936**—This bill was passed as an urgency measure and went into effect on October 8, 2023. The bill is intended to expand the pool of dental students who can participate at sponsored health care events under the supervision of a licensed dentist with a clinical faculty appointment. Previously, only dental students in their final year could participate, and the bill changes that to include any dental student in the clinical training portion of their education.

**AB 1257**—This bill is the sunset bill for the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC). The authority of the DHBC has been extended until January 1, 2028. The bill enables an applicant to meet the educational requirements for licensure as a registered dental hygienist (RDH) if the applicant graduated from a California-accredited dental hygiene college

approved by the DHBC within the preceding three years. The bill also increases the mandatory continuing education (CE) coursework required to maintain an RDH license. The DHBC and the Board have a collaborative relationship. The Board and the DHBC work together on enforcement cases, when appropriate, and have coordinated on a legislative proposal to revise requirements for registered dental assistant (RDA) license applications submitted by an RDH.

**Senate Bill (SB) 544**—This bill provides state agencies like the Board with additional procedures to hold meetings using teleconferencing capabilities. The bill establishes procedures similar to those in place during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. These additional procedures will be in effect until January 1, 2026.

**AB 952 and AB 1048** will also interest our stakeholders, although they do not affect the Board or directly affect licensees. These bills increase oversight of insurance and health care service plans providing dental services. While the Board does not regulate insurance or health care service plans, these bills affect consumers of dental services. As of January 1, 2025, AB 952 requires health insurers and health care service plans to disclose whether the dental coverage or plan is “state regulated” and available through a provider portal, or upon request. The insurers and plans must also include the disclosure on a physical or electronic ID card. Starting January 1, 2025, AB 1048 requires providers of insurance or health care service plans with dental coverage to file annual disclosures with the appropriate department describing their plans.

# Streamlined Application Processing— Recommendations to Dental Licensure Applicants

The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving licensure for dentists to practice in California. Each year, the Board receives an influx of applications during a time we call “graduation season.” Graduation season typically begins in March and runs through the end of July.



During this time, our licensing analysts work hard to review and process applications and supporting documents, and respond to inquiries, not only from dental school graduates but from other applicants. Most applications are for licensure through successful completion of the WREB or ADEX examination, but we receive many applications for licensure by residency, as well as applications from dentists who are relocating to California and applying through the licensure by credential pathway.

Each year, the Board prepares for graduation season by streamlining procedures, discussing new approaches to application processing, and making an effort to provide access to licensure to those who want to practice in California. This year, the Board has made website updates to clarify licensure requirements, added FAQs, and streamlined internal staff processes to improve applications for licensure and renewal. The Board also is proposing legislation and promulgating regulatory changes to support overall licensure processes.

To help achieve a streamlined application process during graduation season, the Board has put together a few tips:

- Individuals who expect to graduate dental school within a year can submit an [Application for Dental Law and Ethics Examination](#). Dental school graduates are encouraged to submit the application in the fall (September through December) to avoid the Board’s busy graduation season. By passing the Dental Law and Ethics Examination early, a license applicant has a better chance of having their application processed faster. Successful completion of the Dental Law and Ethics Examination can be used for dentist licensure up to two years from completion of the examination.
- Applicants should carefully review the [Applicants](#) tab on the Board’s website and the list of requirements pertaining to the licensure pathway the applicant intends to apply through. The website includes all five licensure pathways for dentists and comprehensively lists all requirements.
- Applicants can authorize their testing provider(s) to give Board staff access to required documentation that can be retrieved electronically, such as WREB/ADEX exam results, Dental Law and Ethics Examination results, and National Board Dental Examination scores. Also, the Board now accepts electronic applicant photos; the photo can be attached to the application via BreEZe.
- Applicants should avoid “piece mailing” additional forms and documents by submitting a complete application. Sending additional documents that Board staff must match to a previously submitted application can cause delays in processing.
- Applicants can submit their license application online through BreEZe after graduation, or within two weeks of graduation. If the license application is submitted during this time, Board staff should be able to begin processing the application after the Board receives a dean certification from the applicant’s school.
- If the license application is submitted by mail, applicants should make sure to enclose a check payment with the application. Any applications received without payment will not be processed.

In most circumstances, a complete application will be processed within four to six weeks of receipt. We appreciate everyone’s patience and hope some of our tips above will help!



# The Board's Role of Public Protection

The Board's mission is to protect and promote the health and safety of consumers of California. This is carried out through both licensing and enforcement. Enforcement of the DPA, as well as other related statutes and regulations, is a primary function of the Board. The Board has the authority to discipline or revoke a dentist's license based on repeated acts of negligence, gross negligence, incompetence, or unprofessional conduct per Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 1670.

General practitioners and specialty trained dentists are held to the same standard of care in treating patients. Advertising as a "specialist" without the required training could be considered as unprofessional conduct through misleading advertising (BPC, §§ 651 and 1680, subd. (k)).

## Dental specialties

A dental specialty is an area of dentistry that has been formally recognized by the [National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards](#) based on compliance with the [Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties of the American Dental Association](#). Currently, there are 12 dental specialties recognized by the National Commission. The four most recently adopted specialties are:

**Dental Anesthesiology**, the specialty of dentistry that encompasses the art and science of managing pain, anxiety, and overall patient health during dental, oral, maxillofacial, and adjunctive surgical or diagnostic procedures throughout the entire perioperative period. (Adopted March 2019.)

**Endodontics**, the dental specialty concerned with the morphology, biology, physiology, pathology, and regeneration of the human dental pulp and periradicular tissues. (Adopted April 2021.)

**Oral Medicine**, the specialty of dentistry responsible for the oral health care of medically complex patients and for the diagnosis and management of medically related diseases, disorders, and conditions affecting the oral and maxillofacial region. (Adopted September 2020.)

**Orofacial Pain (OFP)**, the specialty of dentistry that encompasses the diagnosis, management, and treatment of pain disorders of the jaw, mouth, face, head, and neck. OFP-associated disorders include temporomandibular muscle and joint (TMJ) disorders, jaw movement disorders, neuropathic and neurovascular pain disorders, headache, and sleep disorders. (Adopted September 2020.)

## Take-home message

Dentists who advertise and render treatment to patients suffering from specialty disorders should ensure that their advertising is not misleading and that sufficient informed consent from the patient has been obtained (including risks, benefits, and alternatives to treatment).

# What Happens to Complaints Received by the Board?

If you believe that a licensee of the Board has engaged in illegal activity or provided substandard care related to their professional responsibilities or dental services, we encourage you to file a complaint with the Board. This includes substandard dental care provided by a licensed dentist, RDA, or RDAEF.

Fee and billing disputes, general business practices, and personality conflicts are not under the jurisdiction of the Board and will not be investigated by the Board.

## Submitting a Complaint to the Board

Complaints can be submitted in a variety of ways. You can file a complaint online at DCA's online complaint portal. Go to [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov) and select **File a Complaint**. You can also download a complaint form from the Board's Complaints webpage, [www.dbc.ca.gov/consumers/complaints](http://www.dbc.ca.gov/consumers/complaints). Fill out the complaint form online and email it to the Board's Complaint and Compliance Unit (CCU) at [DentalBoardComplaints@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoardComplaints@dca.ca.gov). Or print out the form, complete it by hand, and mail it to Dental Board of California, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1550, Sacramento, CA 95815. Please email the CCU or call (916) 263-2300 if you need help submitting your complaint.

If you are a dental patient submitting a complaint online about substandard dental treatment, complete and submit a signed and dated Authorization for Release of Patient Records form. This allows the dental provider(s) to release your patient records to the Board. In addition, include a list of any other dentists who provided you with treatment for the same issue. Include the contact information of these other dentists.

Within 10 business days of receipt, the Board complaint intake staff will review your complaint, and you will be notified in writing that your complaint was received.



## Review and Evaluation

After receipt of the complaint, a case is opened and assigned to a Board Consumer Services Analyst (CSA). The CSA will review the complaint and determine whether the Board has jurisdiction over the allegations in the complaint. The CSA will send you a letter with the case number and their contact information. If the Board has jurisdiction over the allegations, the CSA will request patient records from the dentist along with any other information necessary to review the complaint. Please note that while the Board has authority to receive patient records, the Board does not have statutory authority to provide copies of the patient records to the patient.

After receipt of the records, the case file is sent to an independent dental consultant retained by the Board, who will review the complaint and documents to determine whether the case warrants an investigation. If the consultant finds that no violation occurred, or there is insufficient evidence, the CSA will close the case and notify you. You can submit additional information, however, and the CCU will reopen the case to review it. This process may take several months, so please be patient.

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## Investigation

If the consultant determines the case warrants investigation, a Board investigator is assigned to the case. You will be notified and you can expect to be interviewed by the investigator. In the interview, you can fully discuss the details of the complaint and ask questions regarding the process. The investigator may also interview the dentist, who will be advised of the nature of the complaint. To protect the integrity of the investigation, the details of the investigation remain confidential and are not public record.

During the investigation, cases involving negligence and other standard-of-care allegations are submitted to a Board-contracted subject matter expert for review.

If the investigation has been completed and the allegations are confirmed, the case may be resolved through various enforcement actions, such as a public reprimand, citation, or formal disciplinary action, depending upon the seriousness of the violations.

## Formal Disciplinary Actions

A formal disciplinary action means the Board's executive officer has determined that the alleged violations warrant formal discipline, such as license revocation, suspension, or probation. The case will be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to prepare an accusation, which is a formal document explaining the Board's jurisdiction and describing the alleged violations of the DPA by the licensee. The case is then set for hearing before an administrative law judge (ALJ).

## Settlements

Prior to an administrative hearing, the licensee and the Board's executive officer, through the OAG, may negotiate a "stipulated settlement" of the matter before the hearing. As part of a stipulated settlement, the licensee generally admits to one or more violations and agrees to a disciplinary action.

## Administrative Hearing and Board Action

When a case goes to hearing, the hearing is presided over by an ALJ. After the hearing, the ALJ will issue a Proposed Decision. The Proposed Decision recommends a resolution: dismissal, revocation, or probation, based on the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines. The Disciplinary Guidelines establish minimum and maximum penalties based on each violation of the DPA. The Guidelines are posted on the Board's website.

The Proposed Decision then goes to the Board for consideration and vote. The Board may vote to adopt the Proposed Decision, revise the Proposed Decision, or not adopt the Proposed Decision. If the Board votes to adopt or revise the Proposed Decision, the Board issues a Decision and Order, with the Proposed Decision attached. If the Board votes to not adopt, the Board reviews the hearing record and transcripts, receives written arguments from the parties, and issues its own Decision and Order. All Board Decisions and Orders are public record and, except for Decisions and Orders dismissing a case, are posted to the licensee's webpage and publicly accessible through the Board's website (see the **License Verification** button).





# Did You Know?—Notes from the Enforcement Program

The Enforcement Program would like to pass on some important information to licensed dentists.

## Reporting Death or Hospitalization of a Patient

A licensee must submit a report to the Board if a patient dies during the performance of any dental or dental hygiene procedure or is transported to a hospital or emergency center for medical treatment following dental treatment or administration of oral conscious sedation, moderate sedation, or general anesthesia. The report must be in writing and must be sent within seven days. A [Courtesy Form for Reporting Dental Patient Death or Hospitalization](#) is available on the Board's [Forms and Publications](#) webpage. After receiving a report of patient death or hospitalization, the Board may conduct an inspection of the dental office. Failure to report is considered unprofessional conduct, and your license may be revoked.

**Authority: BPC section 1680, subdivision (z).**

## Open-End Credit

One of the most common complaints received by the Board is about open-end credit. Open-end credit means credit extended by a creditor under a plan in which the creditor reasonably contemplates repeated transactions, the creditor may impose a finance charge from time to time on an outstanding unpaid balance, and the amount of credit that may be extended to the debtor during the term of the plan, up to any limit set by the creditor, is generally made available to the extent that any outstanding balance is repaid. There are requirements and limitations on open-end credit. An example of an open-end credit violation is when a dental patient is charged up front for dental services that are scheduled more than 30 days after the date of the charge. Open-end credit violations are enforced by the Board as unprofessional conduct violations. In addition, patients who suffer damage as a result of open-ended credit violations may seek relief through civil court.

**Authority: BPC sections 652 and 654.3.**

## Common Inspection Violations

The Board's inspectors conduct inspections in response to patient complaints. The top three most common inspection violations are:

- There is no spore testing after intermediate-level disinfection, which kills mycobacterium tuberculosis var bovis and many human pathogens. Or spore test results are maintained, but they are more than 12 months old and are not kept in a binder. Spore test results must be recent and cannot be kept online.
- There are no written protocols for proper instrument processing, operatory cleanliness, and management of injuries. Or the protocols exist but are not made available to all dental health care personnel at the dental office. A copy of the regulation must also be conspicuously posted in the office.
- The name and license status of every health care practitioner in the office is not disclosed. Every such practitioner must wear a name tag with their name and license status in at least 18-point type, or their license must be prominently displayed in the office.

Inspectors may issue citations for these violations. If you receive a citation, you must pay a fine and show proof that the cited condition has been corrected.

**Authority: BPC sections 680 and 1680; California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1005.**







# The Board's Diversion Program

Dental professionals are not immune to substance use disorders. In fact, they can be at greater risk due to the availability of drugs in the workplace and to the work-related stresses that accompany a practice. An alcohol or drug problem, if left untreated, may impair a dental professional's abilities and pose a risk to the health, life, and safety of their patients. To address this problem with a rehabilitative approach, the Board developed the Diversion Program. The Diversion Program must comply with BPC section 1695.5.

The Diversion Program is a confidential program for the rehabilitation of dental professionals who become impaired due to use of dangerous drugs or alcohol (that is, chemical dependency). It provides individuals with new hope, help, and alternatives. Program services include:

- Confidential consultation with professionals in the field of substance use disorders.
- Intervention services.
- Assessment of treatment needs and referral to appropriate resources.
- Assistance in the development of a recovery plan.
- Monitoring of compliance.
- Encouragement and peer support.

If someone develops a substance use disorder, they are often too close to the problem to be objective. They may not recognize or address it, which can make it more serious and difficult to solve. Or they may try to cope with the problem on their own, resulting in more stress and increasing the severity of the situation.

The first step in dealing with an alcohol or drug problem is for the individual to admit they have a problem and ask for help. A tremendous weight on one professional can become lighter when shared with someone trained to counsel and help others with a substance use disorder.

The Diversion Program accepts referrals on a voluntary basis, and licensees can also be referred to the program by the Board or through the formal disciplinary process. Any licensed dental professional in California who is experiencing an alcohol or drug dependency problem can seek assistance and apply for admission into the program by calling (800) 522-9198. This toll-free number is open 24 hours a day. All requests for information and assistance are strictly confidential. Records maintained by the program are confidential and not subject to discovery or subpoena. However, in compliance with BPC section 1695.5(f), program records may be provided to the Board's enforcement program or used in a disciplinary proceeding if the licensee fails to comply with the terms of the program or is determined to be a threat to the public or their own health and safety.

Once a dental professional contacts the program, arrangements will be made for a confidential evaluation by a licensed professional. After the evaluation, the individual will meet with the Board's Diversion Evaluation Committee (DEC) for formal acceptance into the program. The DEC members, who are appointed by the Board, are fellow dental professionals and experts in the field of substance use disorders and dedicated to helping dental professionals overcome substance abuse.



# The Board in the Community

To inform consumers and dental professionals, the Board participated in outreach events throughout California this year.

## CADAT/CDA A Conference, April 2023



On April 21, 2023, Christy Bell, Assistant Executive Officer, and Rikki Parks, Dental Assisting Program Manager, presented at the annual conference of the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers and the California Dental Assistants Association. The conference was held in San Diego. Rikki and Christy presented on various topics, including initial licensure application pitfalls and frequent deficiencies, continued license maintenance, and continuing education audits.

## Fresno Community Resource Fair, April 2023



On April 25, 2023, Jessica Olney, Anesthesia Program Manager, and Gloria Padilla-Todd, Consumer Services Analyst, attended a community resource fair held at the Calwa Community Center in Fresno. The fair was presented by the Office of Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula for residents in the 31st Assembly District. Jessica and Gloria answered questions on initial licensure and informed residents about where they can go for assistance if they have questions or concerns about the dental treatment they received.

## Los Angeles Dental Society, May 2023



On May 2, 2023, Carlos Alvarez, Southern California Enforcement Chief, gave a presentation via Zoom to the Los Angeles Dental Society on the Board's Enforcement Program. The presentation highlighted the complaint intake process and provided information on the Board's Inspection Program, Investigative Unit, Discipline Coordination Unit, Probation Unit, and Diversion Program. The presentation is posted on the Board's website.

## Renewing Your License? You May Qualify for a Reduced Renewal Fee



Do you qualify for full Social Security retirement benefits? Have you practiced dentistry in California for 20 years? Do you provide dental services for free or for a nominal fee? You may be eligible to renew your dental license at half the standard cost and maintain either an active or inactive license. If your license is active, you will still need to complete 50 hours of continuing education courses every two years.

Please renew your license in *active* status after retirement! Not only can you keep improving the oral health of Californians, but you can supervise students or trainees, teach in educational programs, and serve the Board as a subject matter expert.

At least one week before you renew, submit an [Application for Reduced Dental License Renewal Fee](#) using your [BreEZe](#) account. If you have questions, email us at [DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov).

## Support the Profession and Serve as a Subject Matter Expert

The Board is actively recruiting knowledgeable educators and licensees to join its team of consultants to serve as subject matter experts (SMEs). This is an assignment that keeps you in the forefront of new trends and laws regarding the dental profession. As an SME, you will have the opportunity to assist the Board with its public protection mandate in the following ways:

- Review applications and make recommendations regarding dental assisting educational programs and courses applying for Board approval or going through the re-evaluation process.
- Review enforcement cases to evaluate and/or determine whether violations of the DPA have occurred.
- Evaluate General Anesthesia, Medical General Anesthesia, and Moderate Sedation permit applicants and permit holders by participating in on-site inspections and evaluations. (Requires a current, active General Anesthesia, Medical General Anesthesia, or Moderate Sedation permit.)
- Participate in licensure examination development workshops.

SMEs must hold an active, unrestricted license. Additional qualifications may vary based on the position for which you apply. If you are interested in serving as an SME, please email Board staff at [DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov). Please tell us which assignment(s) you prefer. Additional information can also be found on our website at [www.dbc.ca.gov/](http://www.dbc.ca.gov/).





# The Hot Sheet Administrative Actions Taken January–June 2023



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

Note: The table below shows administrative disciplinary 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
Ayala, Efrain	RDA 96314	Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation	4/26/23
Barajas, Eva	RDA 38924	Accusation Filed	3/9/23
Belli, Diana	DDS 60350	Accusation Filed	6/20/23
Bullard, Sean	DDS 50218	4 Years Probation	1/23/23
Buznikov, Alexei	DDS 51322	2 Years Probation	5/24/23
Cheema, Jasbir	DDS 48243	Accusation Filed	3/9/23
Choi, Sun	DDS 64154	3 Years Probation	1/23/23
Choroomi, Aaron	DDS 54634	2 Years Probation	4/12/23
Clinciu, Adrian	DDS 54653	5 Years Probation	5/12/23
Covarrubias, Rossana	RDA 84416	Accusation Filed	3/16/23
Cros, Sheri	DDS 58148	3 Years Probation	4/12/23
Daley, Timothy	DDS 46374	3 Years Probation	5/24/23
Durado, Janeth	RDA 75180	5 Years Probation	6/14/23
Elhussiny, Naeil	DDS 48255	Accusation Filed	6/19/23
Gredinberg, Tala	DDS 56303	Accusation Filed	5/30/23
Green, Pierce	DDS 31616	Revocation	4/12/23
Grivas, Andrew	DDS 52726	Accusation Filed	5/16/23
Guirguis, Michael	DDS 61154	Voluntary Surrender	6/29/23
Higbee, Barry	DDS 33589	5 Years Probation	4/12/23
Jabaiti, Tariq	DDS 102526	Accusation Filed	5/23/23
Jones, Bradley	DDS 37678	Accusation Filed	6/16/23
Joyce, Lindsey	RDA 66588	Accusation Filed	5/30/23
Kang, Dong-Gil	DDS 64566	Accusation Filed	1/4/23
Katbamna, Dipak	DDS 57058	Public Repeval	2/23/23

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Licensee Name	License No.	Action	Effective Date
Kim, Lucio	DDS 46277	Public Repeval	1/23/23
Koo, David	DDS 35925	Accusation Filed	5/16/23
LaPierre, Jamie	DDS 63588	Accusation Filed	1/26/23
Le, Linh	DDS 41751	2 Years Probation	4/12/23
Linssen, Pieter	DDS 45139	Accusation Filed	3/23/23
Liu, Quan	DDS 59346	35 Months Probation	5/12/23
Lotuaco, Raymond	DDS 48744	Accusation Filed	1/24/23
Lund, John	DDS 25819	Voluntary Surrender	6/14/23
Mahdavi, Elham	DDS 59391	3 Years Probation	6/14/23
Mcallister, John	DDS 39045	Revocation	6/14/23
McClendon, Renee	RDA 44057	3 Years Probation	2/23/23
Mendoza, Julio	DDS 36677	Revocation	6/14/23
Mkrtchyan, Silva	DDS 50699	3 Years Probation	5/24/23
Moss, Douglas	DDS 58401	2 Years Probation	2/23/23
Nikjoo, Ebi	DDS 57117	First Amended Accusation Filed	5/12/23
Park, Jun	DDS 46919	Accusation Filed	5/23/23
Park, Tae Hoon	DDS 48659	Accusation Filed	2/23/23
Parsi, Sanaz	DDS 57518	3 Years Probation	5/12/23
Pedersen, Chelsea	RDA 82115	Revocation	5/12/23
Pham, Kevin	DDS 48979	2 Years Probation	4/12/23
Rahimi, Ramon	DDS 45762	Public Repeval	1/23/23
Ramsey, Victoria	RDA 99676	3 Years Probation	2/23/23
Riazi, Sara	DDS 63233	5 Years Probation	5/24/23
Rico, Patricio	RDA 45025	Revocation	2/23/23
Rutner, Robert	DDS 33512	3 Years Probation	5/24/23
Sabbagh-Fard, Arash	DDS 48007	2 Years Probation	1/23/23
Saenz, Amanda	RDA 94094	3 Years Probation	2/23/23
Sands, Kevin	DDS 46951	Public Repeval	2/23/23

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Licensee Name	License No.	Action	Effective Date
Shodhan, Keyur	DDS 48380	2 Years Probation	1/23/23
Shojania, Ali	DDS 49215	Voluntary Surrender	3/23/23
Skorupko, Vadim	DDS 41216	35 Months Probation	1/23/23
Spencer, Durwood	DDS 104289	2 Years Probation	5/12/23
Tatla, Navtej	DDS 50830	30 Months Probation	5/12/23
Webb, David	DDS 64254	Voluntary Surrender	4/12/23
Whitehead, George	DDS 22768	5 Years Probation	5/24/23
Williams, Josiah	DDS 57100	3 Years Probation	5/24/23
Zadeh, Hossein	DDS 35503	3 Years Probation	5/12/23
Zeidler, Alina	DDS 36831	Accusation Filed	3/30/23

## Full Groan Comic

The creator of Full Groan Comics is a member of Board staff.

