

GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
Emergency Conference Call
2 Peachtree St., N.W., 6th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
August 17, 2020
5:00 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Dr. Tracy Gay, President
Dr. Greg Goggans
Dr. Michael Knight
Dr. Glenn Maron
Mr. Mark Scheinfeld
Dr. Debra Wilson
Dr. Bert Yeargan

Staff present:

Eric Lacefield, Executive Director
Max Changus, Assistant Attorney General
Kimberly Emm, Attorney
Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst I

Open Session

Dr. Gay established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Mr. Lacefield asked the visitors on the call to send an email via the “Contact Us” portal on the website if he/she would like his/her name reflected as being in attendance in the minutes.

Temporary Licensure for Dentists & Dental Hygienists

The Board discussed amendments to its proposed guidelines for temporary dental and dental hygiene licensure that were voted on at its Emergency Conference Call on July 24, 2020. Specifically, the date of October 31, 2020 was discussed. Dr. Maron made a motion to amend the language in the first paragraph of the guidelines to read, “*No applications for a temporary dental hygiene license will be accepted or considered after the expiration of the Public Health State of Emergency or October 31, 2020, whichever comes first.*” Dr. Knight seconded. Discussion was held regarding additional changes. Dr. Maron discussed section (2)(a) of the temporary dental licensure guidelines which reads, “*Only applications from 2020 graduates of accredited dental schools, accepted by the Board, that have been impacted by the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID) pandemic will be considered for a temporary dental license.*” He suggested adding “or accredited residencies” as he believes accredited residencies should be included. After discussion, Mr. Changus stated the Board can interpret “from dental school” as broadly as it sees fit. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

New Graduate Temporary Dental Licensure Guidelines and Requirements

- (1) Per Executive Order 08.15.20.01, effective August 16, 2020, new graduate dental applicants may apply for a temporary dental license. This is not a provisional or an unrestricted dental license. **No applications for a temporary dental license will be accepted or considered after the expiration of the Public Health State of Emergency or October 31, 2020, whichever comes first.**
- (2) The following requirements and restrictions, including but not limited to, will apply to those new graduates approved for temporary dental licensure:
 - (a) Only applications from 2020 graduates of accredited dental schools, accepted by the Board, that have been impacted by the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID) pandemic will be considered for a temporary dental license.

- (b) All sections of the regular application for Licensure by Examination, as described in Rules 150-3-.01, 150-3-.02, and 150-3-.04 will apply except for Rule 150-3-.04(1)(a).
 - (c) In place of Rule 150-3-.04(1)(a), the applicant will submit a letter from the Dean of the graduate's dental school stating that the applicant has attained a level of competency that would provide for the safe delivery of dental care to patients in the State of Georgia following the accepted, prevailing standards of care accepted by the Georgia Board of Dentistry and the graduate's dental school as well as proof that the applicant was previously registered to take the CRDTS exam and that the scheduled exam has been postponed.
- (3) In addition to the above requirements, the applicant will also submit a letter from a Georgia licensed supervising dentist(s) who will accept responsibility for the applicant's dental care delivery and care of patients under his/her supervision.
- (a) Required qualifications for a supervising dentist shall include, but not be limited to, an unencumbered, unrestricted Georgia dental license in good standing with 5 years of full-time active practice immediately preceding the date of application.
 - (b) The supervising dentist shall have no history of sanctions that reference quality of care, violations of moral turpitude or deviation from the standards of dental care as accepted by the Board.
 - (c) Dental graduates practicing under a temporary dental license shall be under the direct supervision of the supervising dentist whenever dental care is being provided in an office or facility setting.
 - (d) The supervising dentist shall maintain a log of all procedures provided by the temporary licensee and be prepared to provide the information to Georgia Board of Dentistry upon request.
 - (e) If the temporary licensee has a change of employment, he/she must immediately notify the Board and upon new employment must submit a letter from his/her new supervising dentist(s).
- (4) The term of the temporary dental license will be determined at the discretion of the Georgia Board of Dentistry pending the resumed administration of the next available live patient clinical licensure examination approved and accepted by the Board.
- (a) All temporary licensees must provide the Board with proof of registration for the next available live patient clinical licensure examination approved and accepted by the Board.
- (5) When results of successful performance on a live patient clinical licensure examination, approved by the Board, have been received, an unrestricted dental license may be issued in place of the temporary dental license. The temporary dental license would be superseded by the unrestricted license.
- (a) **Failure to pass the live patient clinical licensure examination, approved by the Board, shall result in the immediate voiding of the temporary dental license.**
- (6) A temporary dental license shall be revoked upon failure to follow any of the above listed provisions.

New Graduate Temporary Dental Hygiene Licensure **Guidelines and Requirements**

- (1) Per Executive Order 08.15.20.01, effective August 16, 2020, new graduate dental hygiene applicants may apply for a temporary dental hygiene license. This is not a provisional or an unrestricted dental hygiene license. **No applications for a temporary dental hygiene license will be**

accepted or considered after the expiration of the Public Health State of Emergency or October 31, 2020, whichever comes first.

- (2) The following requirements and restrictions, including but not limited to, will apply to those new graduates approved for temporary dental hygiene licensure:
 - (a) Only applications from 2020 graduates of accredited dental hygiene schools, accepted by the Board, that have been impacted by the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID) pandemic will be considered for a temporary dental hygiene license.
 - (b) All sections of the regular application for Licensure by Examination, as described in Rules 150-5-.02 will apply except for Rule 150-5-.02(2) and (5)(b).
 - (c) In place of Rule 150-5-.02(5)(b), the applicant will submit a letter from the Dean of the graduate's dental hygiene school stating that the applicant has attained a level of competency that would provide for the safe delivery of dental hygiene care to patients in the State of Georgia following the accepted, prevailing standards of care accepted by the Georgia Board of Dentistry and the graduate's dental hygiene school as well as proof that the applicant was previously registered to take the CRDTS exam and that the scheduled exam has been postponed.
- (3) In addition to the above requirements, the applicant will also submit a letter from a Georgia licensed supervising dentist(s) who will accept responsibility for the applicant's dental hygiene care delivery and care of patients under his/her supervision.
 - (a) Required qualifications for a supervising dentist shall include, but not be limited to, an unencumbered, unrestricted Georgia dental license in good standing with 5 years of full-time active practice immediately preceding the date of application.
 - (b) The supervising dentist shall have no history of sanctions that reference quality of care, violations of moral turpitude or deviation from the standards of dental care as accepted by the Board.
 - (c) Dental hygiene graduates practicing under a temporary dental hygiene license shall be under the direct supervision of the supervising dentist whenever dental hygiene care is being provided in an office or facility setting.
 - (d) If the temporary licensee has a change of employment, he/she must immediately notify the Board and upon new employment must submit a letter from his/her new supervising dentist(s).
- (4) The term of the temporary dental hygiene license will be determined at the discretion of the Georgia Board of Dentistry pending the resumed administration of the next available live patient clinical licensure examination approved and accepted by the Board.
 - (a) All temporary licensees must provide the Board with proof of registration for the next available live patient clinical licensure examination approved and accepted by the Board.
- (5) When results of successful performance on a live patient clinical licensure examination, approved by the Board, have been received, an unrestricted dental hygiene license may be issued in place of the temporary dental hygiene license. The temporary dental hygiene license would be superseded by the unrestricted license.
 - (a) **Failure to pass the live patient clinical licensure examination, approved by the Board, shall result in the immediate voiding of the temporary dental hygiene license.**
- (6) A temporary dental hygiene license shall be revoked upon failure to follow any of the above listed provisions.

Mr. Lacefield inquired as to whether or not an additional fee for temporary licensure would be required. He stated most boards that allowed temporary licenses due to the pandemic did not charge an additional fee for such. The Board agreed that no additional fee would be required.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(3), the Board declares that special circumstances exist warranting the holding of this meeting on less than 24 hours' notice, those circumstances being the COVID-19 pandemic.

With no further business, the Board meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Dentistry will be held via conference call on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Community Health's office located at 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Minutes recorded by Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst I
Minutes edited by Eric Lacefield, Executive Director