

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

In the Matter of
Donna J. Larson, L.D.A.
License No. A4213

**STIPULATION AND ORDER
FOR CONDITIONAL LICENSE**

STIPULATION

Donna J. Larson, L.D.A. (“Licensee”) and the Minnesota Board of Dentistry’s Complaint Committee (“Committee”) agree the above-referenced matter may be resolved without trial of any issue or fact as follows:

I.

JURISDICTION

1. The Minnesota Board of Dentistry (“Board”) is authorized pursuant to Minn. Stat. ch. 150A, § 214.10, and § 214.103 to license and regulate licensed dental assistants and to take disciplinary action when appropriate.

2. Licensee holds a license from the Board to practice dental assisting in the State of Minnesota and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board with respect to the matters referred to in this Stipulation and Order.

II.

CONFERENCE

3. On January 17, 2013, Licensee appeared before the Committee, composed of Board members Joan Sheppard, D.D.S., Teri Youngdahl, L.D.A., and John Manahan, J.D., to discuss allegations made in a Notice of Conference dated December 17, 2012. Greg Schaefer, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Committee at the conference.

4. Although Licensee was informed at the conference that she could be represented by legal counsel, Licensee has knowingly and voluntarily waived that opportunity.

III.

FACTS

5. The parties agree this Stipulation and Order is based upon the following facts:

Unprofessional Conduct / Inability to Practice with Reasonable Skill and Safety

a. Licensee has engaged in personal conduct which brings discredit to the profession of dental assisting and may be unable to practice dental assisting with reasonable skill and safety due to a physical, mental, emotional, or other disability.

1) On March 14, 2011, Licensee self-reported to the Health Professionals Services Program ("HPSP"). During her intake interview with the HPSP, Licensee stated that she entered inpatient chemical dependency treatment at New Beginnings for alcohol dependence and opiate abuse on March 5, 2011. Besides overindulging in alcohol a few times a week, Licensee also forged her employer's signature on a prescription for more Vicodin following some teeth extractions.

2) On March 26, 2011, Licensee was discharged from inpatient chemical dependency treatment at New Beginnings.

3) On April 12, 2011, the HPSP received Licensee's signed Participation Agreement to monitor her substance disorder.

4) On April 18, 2011, Licensee entered outpatient chemical dependency treatment at The Haven. Licensee was discharged from treatment on July 14, 2011.

5) On August 18, 20, and December 6, 2011, Licensee failed to comply with submitting a toxicology screen on these dates as required by the HPSP and her Monitoring Plan. Despite these three missed screens, the HPSP continued to monitor Licensee.

6) On January 20 and 27, 2012, Licensee submitted toxicology screens that tested positive for EtG at 745 ng/mL and 1630 ng/mL and EtS at 189 ng/mL and 318 ng/mL, respectively. When contacted by the HPSP, Licensee admitted that she used NyQuil to treat a cold. Despite this, the HPSP continued to monitor Licensee.

7) On April 16, 2012, Licensee submitted a toxicology screen that tested positive for EtG at 6790 ng/mL and EtS at 617 ng/mL. When contacted by the HPSP, Licensee admitted that she consumed a half glass of wine the day before her screen. Despite her relapse, the HPSP continued to monitor Licensee.

8) On May 9, 2012, Licensee completed a chemical dependency assessment. Among other things, the evaluator recommended that Licensee enter an outpatient program for chemical dependency treatment. From May to October 2012, Licensee participated in an outpatient relapse program at Fairview Forest Lake.

9) On October 22, 2012, Licensee submitted a toxicology screen that tested positive for EtG at 961 ng/mL and EtS at 301 ng/mL. When contacted by the HPSP, Licensee admitted that she consumed jello shots the day before her screen.

10) On October 30, 2012, the HPSP discharged Licensee from the program due to non-compliance, including multiple problem screens and a recent relapse.

11) On November 30, 2012, the Committee sent a confidential referral letter to Licensee instructing her to contact the HPSP within seven days. The Committee's letter also informed Licensee that an upcoming conference would be held with her to discuss her

chemical dependency. On December 5, 2012, Licensee contacted the HPSP for re-enrollment in the program and signed a Participation Agreement on December 20, 2012.

IV.

LAWS

6. Licensee acknowledges the conduct described in section III. above constitutes a violation of Minn. Stat. §150A.08, subd. 1(6) and (8), Minn. R. 3100.6200 A, and justifies the disciplinary action described in section V. below.

V.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The parties agree the Board may take the following disciplinary action and require compliance with the following terms:

CONDITIONS

7. The Board places the following **CONDITIONS** on Licensee's license:

a. Participation in HPSP.

1) Licensee must continue with her participation in the HPSP for monitoring of her chemical dependency recovery. Licensee shall provide the HPSP with a copy of this Stipulation and Order after being adopted by the Board.

2) Licensee shall be monitored by the HPSP until the HPSP determines Licensee is qualified to practice without conditions.

3) Licensee shall comply with all provisions of her HPSP Participation Agreement, including revisions subsequent to this Order. Licensee's failure to comply with her HPSP Participation Agreement shall be considered a violation of this Order.

4) Licensee shall totally abstain from ingesting, injecting, or

otherwise taking or using any mood-altering chemical or drug, including, but not limited to alcohol. This prohibition does not apply to legend drugs, including controlled substances, which are prescribed for Licensee by a licensed physician or dentist as part of a course of treatment.

Removal of Conditions

8. The conditions upon Licensee's license shall be administratively removed upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the disciplinary action contained within this Stipulation and Order. The Board's Executive Director will send written notification to the Licensee regarding the removal of the conditions from Licensee's license to practice dental assisting.

VI.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE OR ADDITIONAL VIOLATIONS

9. Licensee shall comply with the laws or rules of the Board of Dentistry. Licensee agrees that failure to comply with the Board's laws or rules shall be a violation of this Stipulation and Order.

10. In Licensee's practice of dentistry, Licensee shall comply with the most current infection control requirements of Minnesota Rules parts 3100.6300 and 6950.1000 to 6950.1080, and with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Service, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

11. Licensee shall fully and promptly cooperate with the Board's reasonable requests concerning compliance with this Stipulation and Order, including requests for explanations, documents, office inspections, or appearances at conferences. Minnesota Rules part 3100.6350 shall be applicable to such requests.

12. It is Licensee's responsibility to ensure all payments, reports, evaluations, and documentation required to be filed with the Board pursuant to this Stipulation and Order are timely filed by those preparing the payment, report, evaluation, or documentation. Failure to file payments, reports, evaluations, and documentation on or before their due date is a violation of this Stipulation and Order.

Imposition of Fine

13. If information or a report required by this Stipulation and Order is not submitted to the Board by the due date, or if Licensee otherwise violates this Stipulation and Order, the Committee may fine Licensee \$100 per late report or other violation. Licensee shall pay the fine and correct the violation within five days after service on Licensee of a demand for payment and correction. If Licensee fails to do so, the Committee may impose additional fines not to exceed \$500 per violation. The total of all fines may not exceed \$5,000. Licensee waives the right to seek review of the imposition of these fines under the Administrative Procedure Act, by writ of certiorari under Minnesota Statutes section 480A.06, by application to the Board, or otherwise. Neither the imposition of fines nor correction of the violation will deprive the Board of the right to impose additional discipline based on the violation.

Noncompliance or Violation With Stipulation and Order

14. If Licensee fails to comply with or violates this Stipulation and Order or it is determined Licensee has further violated Minnesota Statutes chapter 150A or Minnesota Rules chapter 3100, the Committee may, in its discretion, seek additional discipline either by initiating a contested case proceeding pursuant to Minnesota Statutes chapter 14 or by bringing the matter directly to the Board pursuant to the following procedure:

a. The Committee shall schedule a hearing before the Board. At least ten days prior to the hearing, the Committee shall mail Licensee a notice of the violation(s) alleged by the Committee. In addition, the notice shall designate the time and place of the hearing. Within seven days after the notice is mailed, Licensee shall submit a written response to the allegations. If Licensee does not submit a timely response to the Board, the allegations may be deemed admitted.

b. The Committee, in its discretion, may schedule a conference with the Licensee prior to the hearing before the Board to discuss the allegations and to attempt to resolve the allegations through the procedures of Minnesota Statutes Section 214.103, subdivision 6.

c. Prior to the hearing before the Board, the Committee and Licensee may submit affidavits and written argument in support of their positions. At the hearing, the Committee and Licensee may present oral argument. Argument shall not refer to matters outside the record. The evidentiary record shall be limited to the affidavits submitted prior to the hearing and this Stipulation and Order. The Committee shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that a violation has occurred. If Licensee has failed to submit a timely response to the allegations, Licensee may not contest the allegations, but may present argument concerning the appropriateness of additional discipline. Licensee waives a hearing before an administrative law judge, discovery, cross-examination of adverse witnesses, and other procedures governing hearings pursuant to Minnesota Statutes chapter 14.

d. Licensee's correction of a violation prior to the conference, hearing or meeting of the Board may be taken into account by the Board but shall not limit the Board's authority to impose discipline for the violation. A decision by the Committee not to seek discipline when it first learns of a violation will not waive the Committee's right to later seek

discipline for that violation, either alone or in combination with other violations, at any time while this order is in effect.

e. Following the hearing, the Board will deliberate confidentially. If the allegations are not proved, the Board will dismiss the allegations. If a violation is proved, the Board may impose additional discipline, including additional conditions or limitations on Licensee's practice, suspension, or revocation of Licensee's license.

f. Nothing herein shall limit the Committee's or the Board's right to temporarily suspend Licensee's license pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 150A.08, subdivision 8, based on a violation of this Stipulation and Order or based on conduct of Licensee not specifically referred to herein.

VII.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

15. Within ten days of execution of this Stipulation and Order, Licensee shall provide the Board with the names of all states in which Licensee is licensed to practice as a dental professional or holds any other professional or occupational license or registration.

16. If while residing or practicing in Minnesota, Licensee should become employed at any other dental clinic or facility or move, Licensee shall notify the Board in writing of the new address and telephone number within ten days.

17. In the event Licensee should leave Minnesota to reside or to practice outside of the state, Licensee shall notify the Board in writing of the new address and telephone number within ten days. Periods of residency or practice outside of Minnesota will not apply to the reduction of any period of Licensee's discipline in Minnesota unless Licensee demonstrates that

practice in another state conforms completely to this Stipulation and Order. If Licensee leaves the state, the terms of this order continue to apply unless waived in writing.

18. Licensee waives the contested case hearing and all other procedures before the Board to which Licensee may be entitled under the Minnesota and United States constitutions, statutes, or rules.

19. Licensee waives any claims against the Board, the Minnesota Attorney General, the State of Minnesota, and their agents, employees, and representatives related to the investigation of the conduct herein, or the negotiation or execution of this Stipulation and Order, which may otherwise be available to Licensee.

20. This Stipulation and Order, the files, records, and proceedings associated with this matter shall constitute the entire record and may be reviewed by the Board in its consideration of this matter.

21. Either party may seek enforcement of this Stipulation and Order in any appropriate civil court.

22. Licensee has read, understands, and agrees to this Stipulation and Order and has voluntarily signed this Stipulation and Order. Licensee is aware this Stipulation and Order must be approved by the Board before it goes into effect. The Board may approve the Stipulation and Order as proposed, approve it subject to specified change, or reject it. If the changes are acceptable to Licensee, the Stipulation and Order will take effect and the order as modified will be issued. If the changes are unacceptable to Licensee or the Board rejects the Stipulation and Order, it will be of no effect except as specified in the following paragraph.

23. Licensee agrees that if the Board rejects this Stipulation and Order or a lesser remedy than indicated in this settlement, and this case comes again before the Board, Licensee

will assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this Stipulation and Order or of any records relating to it.

24. This Stipulation and Order shall not limit the Board's authority to proceed against Licensee by initiating a contested case hearing or by other appropriate means on the basis of any act, conduct, or admission of Licensee which constitutes grounds for disciplinary action and which is not directly related to the specific facts and circumstances set forth in this document.

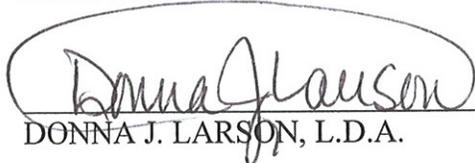
VIII.

DATA PRACTICES NOTICES

25. This Stipulation and Order constitutes disciplinary action by the Board and is classified as public data pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 5. Data regarding this action will be provided to data banks as required by Federal law or consistent with Board policy. While this Stipulation and Order is in effect, information obtained by the Board pursuant to this Order is considered active investigative data on a licensed health professional, and as such, is classified as confidential data pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 4.

26. This Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies this Stipulation.

LICENSEE


DONNA J. LARSON, L.D.A.

Dated: 3-7-2013, 2013

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

By:


MARSHALL SHRAGG, MPH
Executive Director

Dated: MARCH 11TH, 2013

ORDER

Upon consideration of the foregoing Stipulation and based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein,

The terms of the Stipulation are approved and adopted, and the recommended disciplinary action set forth in the Stipulation is hereby issued as an Order of this Board effective this 14th day of June, 2013.

MINNESOTA BOARD
OF DENTISTRY

By: Nancy Kearns DH
NANCY KEARN, D.H.
President