

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF :  
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST : **FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**  
: :  
DEBRA M. PETERSON, R.D.H., : Order 0008279  
RESPONDENT. :  
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Division of Enforcement Case #06 DEN 41

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stat. § 227.53, are:

Debra M. Peterson, RDH  
E18006 Heights Rd.  
Hillsboro, WI 54634

Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Division of Enforcement  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The prosecutor and Respondent in this matter agreed to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board has now reviewed this Stipulation, and approves it.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Debra M. Peterson (dob 7/31/66) is and was at all times relevant to the facts set forth herein a dental hygienist licensed in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license #4298, first granted on 6/13/90. Respondent is permitted to administer local anesthesia.
2. Respondent did, on a date unknown, but while licensed and employed as a dental hygienist, and at her place of employment (but not during business hours), attempt to extract tooth #4 for an older relative, who had not been examined by a dentist for this purpose. Respondent took x-rays of the area, and used local anesthesia. Respondent was ultimately unable to extract the tooth, which broke during her attempts to extract it, and had to telephone her employing dentist (now deceased) to come in and complete the extraction procedure. Respondent failed to keep any patient health care record of the procedures she personally performed on the patient.

3. Respondent was permitted by her former employing dentist to adjust the bites of patients' crowns using a diamond polisher.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

A. The Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 447.07(3), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

B. The conduct described in paragraphs 2 and 3, above, violated Wis. Stat. § 447.07(3)(a) and Wis. Adm. Code §§ DE 3.03(2) and (4), and 5.02(3). Such conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of the Code and statutes.

### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Debra M. Peterson, R.D.H., is REPRIMANDED for her unprofessional conduct in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent's license to practice dental hygiene is LIMITED in the following respect: within 90 days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully pass the examination on Wisconsin statutes and rules ordinarily given to applicants for a license as a dental hygienist. Respondent may not attempt the examination more than twice without permission of the Board. Upon successful completion of the examination, this limitation shall be removed by staff, without further action by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent's license to practice dental hygiene is LIMITED in the following respect: within 90 days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall demonstrate that she has successfully completed the on-line course "Ethics, Laws and Rules for the Dental Hygienist" offered by Home Study Solutions of Pinellas Park, Florida. Respondent may propose an alternative course of study, but it must be substantially equivalent to this course; any such alternative must be approved by the Board or its designee. Upon demonstration of successful completion of the course, this limitation shall be removed by staff, without further action by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.51(3), violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely pass the examination as ordered, or to demonstrate successful completion of the required course, Respondent's license SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has successfully passed the examination.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent shall pay Costs of \$1,700, to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, no later than 9/5/11. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit full payment of Costs, the Respondent's license SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has paid the Costs in full, including any accrued interest.

Dated this July 7, 2010.

WISCONSIN DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

by: Paul R. Barbeau DDS  
a member of the Board

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