

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Safety and Professional Services from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Safety and Professional Services data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name* as it appears on the order.
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup."

The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:

<http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>

- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DSPS website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact DSPS@wisconsin.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

STEPHEN A. SEVENICH, D.D.S.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

:
: **ORDER 0006784**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case 16 DEN 105

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

Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S.
Green Bay, WI 54304-1969

Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board
P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Dentistry Examining Board (Board). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., (DOB xx/xx/1955) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice dentistry, having license number 3264-15, first issued on January 24, 1984, and current through September 30, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1551 Park Place, Suite 300, Green Bay, WI 54304-1969.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a dentist at a clinic (Clinic), located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

3. On October 27, 2011, Respondent first saw Patient A for an appointment regarding Patient A's missing teeth 8, 9, and 10. Patient A was interested in exploring the replacement of

his upper anterior removable partial denture with dental implants. Respondent took diagnostics at this time.

4. After the initial examination, Respondent told Patient A that he would require bone grafts to support dental implants.

5. On November 2, 2011, Respondent consulted Patient A about his desired treatment. Patient A was interested in pursuing dental implants to replace his missing teeth. Patient A liked that he could get all the treatment completed by Respondent.

6. On December 15, 2011, Respondent completed a pretreatment sedation exam on Patient A. Respondent and Patient A signed consents for treatment and medications were dispensed for oral conscious sedation.

7. On December 16, 2011, Respondent completed basic restorative treatments on Patient A.

8. On February 15, 2012, Respondent continued to complete basic restorative treatments on Patient A.

9. On March 14, 2012, Respondent completed a pretreatment sedation exam for a dental implant procedure on Patient A. Respondent and Patient A signed consents for treatment and medications were dispensed for oral conscious sedation.

10. On March 15, 2012, Respondent performed a bone graft procedure and placed dental implants at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth while Patient A was under sedation. Respondent prescribed Patient A antibiotics and pain medications.

11. On March 21, 2012, Respondent saw Patient A for a postoperative check. Respondent noted that the operative site at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth was healing well.

12. On July 30, 2012, Respondent anesthetized the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth and placed healing caps.

13. On August 14, 2012, Respondent anesthetized Patient A and placed abutments on the implants placed at teeth 8 and 10 in Patient A's mouth. The implant Respondent placed at the area of tooth 9 in Patient A's mouth showed mobility and infection. Respondent prescribed Patient A antibiotics and scheduled an appointment to remove the implant at the area of tooth 9.

14. On August 16, 2012, Respondent noted that the implant at the area of Patient A's tooth 9 failed to integrate. Respondent removed the implant and performed another bone graft procedure at the area of tooth 9 in Patient A's mouth.

15. On August 23, 2012, Respondent performed a postoperative exam on the area of Patient A's tooth 9 and noted that the site was healing well.

16. On October 2, 2012, Respondent performed a postoperative exam on the area of Patient A's tooth 9 and noted that the bone looked to be healing. Respondent adjusted Patient A's provisional restoration.

17. On February 25, 2013, Respondent again performed a bone graft procedure at the area of tooth 9 in Patient A's mouth. Respondent also placed an implant at the area of Patient A's tooth 9.

18. On March 4, 2013, Respondent determined that Patient A had a large amount of bone loss at the region of teeth 8, 9, and 10. Respondent decided that Patient A needed further bone grafts in that region of the mouth. Respondent removed the implant placed at the area of Patient A's tooth 9.

19. On April 24, 2013, Respondent completed a pretreatment sedation exam on Patient A. Respondent and Patient A signed consents for treatment and medications were dispensed for oral conscious sedation.

20. On April 26, 2013, Respondent removed the implants at the areas of Patient A's teeth 8 and 10. Respondent further performed a block bone graft procedure at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth. Respondent prescribed Patient A antibiotics and pain medications.

21. On April 30, 2013, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the top layer of the tissue graft at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth was becoming necrotic. Respondent prescribed Patient A chlorhexidine, an antiseptic.

22. On May 3, 2013, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the site of the bone graft procedure was not healing well and that the tissue was sloughing.

23. On May 6, 2013, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the site of the bone graft procedure was not healing well and was still sloughing. Respondent noted that the patient was in pain and experiencing bleeding. Respondent removed the necrotic tissue.

24. On May 13, 2013, Respondent diagnosed Patient A with necrotic bone and tissue at the site of the bone graft procedure. Respondent removed the bone graft previously placed at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth. Respondent recommended continuing to attempt the previous bone grafting procedure. Respondent told Patient A to follow up with him in four (4) to six (6) months.

25. On May 22, 2013; May 28, 2013; June 17, 2013; November 18, 2013; and February 5, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A for visits to maintain Patient A's removable partial denture as the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth healed.

26. On July 15, 2014, Respondent completed a pretreatment sedation exam on Patient A. Respondent and Patient A signed consents for treatment and medications were dispensed for oral conscious sedation.

27. On July 28, 2014, Respondent again performed a block bone graft procedure at the area of teeth 8 and 9 in Patient A's mouth.

28. On July 29, 2014, Respondent noted that the area of teeth 8 and 9 in Patient A's mouth appeared to be healing well.

29. On August 5, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the site of the bone graft procedure had torn open.

30. On August 8, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the site of the bone graft procedure showed an opening of palatal tissue.

31. On August 12, 2014, Respondent again performed a bone graft procedure at the area of teeth 8 and 9 in Patient A's mouth.

32. On August 18, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the tissue at the site of the bone graft procedure was open but with no exposed bone.

33. On August 21, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the site of the bone graft procedure was not healing well and that the tissue was open and bone was exposed.

34. On August 25, 2014, Respondent again performed a block bone graft procedure at the area of teeth 8 and 9 in Patient A's mouth.

35. On September 4, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the site of the bone graft procedure was healing well, but and that the tissue was opening up.

36. On September 12, 2014, Respondent performed a tissue graft revision procedure at the area of teeth 8 and 9 in Patient A's mouth.

37. On October 1, 2014, Respondent noted that Patient A reported that the site of the bone graft felt good and that there was no smell or discharge from the site.

38. On October 15, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that there was a lingual boney exposure at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth.

39. On October 20, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the tissue was again opening at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth. On this date, Respondent stated that he wanted to consult with another doctor before proceeding with further treatment of Patient A.

40. On November 3, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A and noted that the tissue was still opening at the area of teeth 8, 9, and 10 in Patient A's mouth. On this date, Patient A told Respondent that he needed to wait until February 2015 for additional procedures. Respondent told Patient A that if he did not undergo additional procedures before that time, he would lose the placed bone graft.

41. On March 12, 2015, Patient A left the care of Respondent and sought further opinions and corrective care elsewhere. Patient A requested his medical records from Respondent through his new treating dentist.

42. According to Respondent, between October 27, 2011, and November 19, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A in person more than 60 times and had an additional 17 phone contacts with Patient A.

43. Despite the continued failed procedures performed by Respondent on Patient A, Respondent did not attempt to refer Patient A to specialists for further care.

44. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § DE 5.02(5), by practicing in a manner which substantially departs from the standard of care ordinarily exercised by a dentist which harms or could have harmed a patient.

3. As a result of the above violations, Respondent Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 447.07(3)(a) and (h).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The license to practice dentistry issued to Respondent Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., (license number 3264-15) is further LIMITED to prohibit Respondent from performing procedures to place dental implants that require bone grafting except as follows:

a. This limitation does not apply to procedures involving socket grafting.

b. Respondent may perform block bone grafting procedures under the supervision of an approved mentoring oral surgeon as follows:

i. Respondent may engage the services of a professional mentor who is licensed to practice as an oral surgeon in the state of Wisconsin, and who has not been disciplined by the Board.

- ii. Respondent shall submit to the Department Monitor at the address below a written request for approval of a proposed mentor. The request for approval shall be accompanied by the mentor's current curriculum vitae or other summary of qualifications and a letter from the mentor confirming that he or she has read this Final Decision and Order and agrees to undertake the duties of a mentoring oral surgeon as set out in this Order.
- iii. The mentoring oral surgeon shall be actively engaged in the practice of dentistry and shall not have any personal relationship, past or present, with Respondent that could reasonably be expected to compromise the proposed mentor's ability to render fair and unbiased reports to the Department. The mentoring oral surgeon may be affiliated with Dental Wellness Center, LLC.
- iv. The Board's monitoring liaison has the full and final authority to approve or reject a proposed mentor. The Board's monitoring liaison shall not unreasonably reject a proposed mentor. This decision is based on an exercise of discretion and is not reviewable. The Board's monitoring liaison may approve or direct a change in the mentoring oral surgeon for any of the following reasons: the mentoring oral surgeon is unable to carry out the responsibilities set out in this order; the mentoring oral surgeon requests the change; the mentoring oral surgeon concludes that Respondent cannot safely and reliably engage in the practice of dentistry; or the mentoring oral surgeon fails to meet any requirement of this Order.
- v. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the mentoring oral surgeon.
- vi. The mentoring oral surgeon shall evaluate, critique, and provide guidance to Respondent concerning the procedure.
- vii. If at any time the mentoring oral surgeon concludes that Respondent is incapable of competently performing the procedure even with direct supervision, the mentoring oral surgeon shall notify the Department Monitor in writing within twenty-four (24) hours.
- viii. If the mentoring oral surgeon notifies the Board that Respondent has not demonstrated minimal competence in the procedure, Respondent then remains prohibited from performing the procedure except in a supervised educational or university setting for the purpose of education and training. The Board or the Board's monitoring liaison may remove this limitation if Respondent petitions the Board and demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board

or the Board's monitoring liaison that Respondent has achieved competence in the procedure.

ix. After three (3) observed procedures of this type, and with a favorable written recommendation from the mentoring oral surgeon, Respondent may petition the Board to remove this limitation as it applies to block bone grafting procedures only. The Board shall not unreasonably reject any such petition.

c. Upon completion of the education in paragraph 4 of this Order, Respondent may petition the Board to remove this limitation as it applies to particulate bone grafting procedures only.

d. Respondent may perform particulate bone grafting procedures in a supervised educational or university setting for the purpose of education and training.

e. Upon completion of the education in paragraph 4 and the requirements of paragraph 3(b) of this Order, Respondent may petition the Board to remove this limitation. The Board shall not unreasonably reject any such petition.

4. The license to practice dentistry issued to Respondent Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., (license number 3264-15) is further LIMITED as follows:

a. Within 240 days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete twenty-four (24) hours of education, eight (8) hours of which must be clinical education, on the topic of bone grafting and 4 (4) hours of in-person education on the topic of dental implants.

b. Each course attended in satisfaction of this Order must be pre-approved by the Board, the Board's monitoring liaison, or the Department Monitor. Respondent shall be responsible for locating course(s) satisfactory to the Board and for obtaining the required approval of the courses from the Board, the Board's monitoring liaison, or the Department Monitor. The Board, Board's monitoring liaison, or the Department Monitor shall not unreasonably reject courses submitted for pre-approval. Respondent must take and pass any exam offered for the course(s).

c. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below.

d. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department.

- e. The Board's monitoring liaison may change the number of ordered credit hours or the time period within which to complete the education requirement in paragraph 4(a) in response to a request from Respondent. The monitoring liaison may consider the hours of education, any emergent or unexpected issues impacting Respondent's ability to complete the required education, and any ongoing public health concern when determining if a change to the ordered education or time period within which to complete the ordered education should occur.

8. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$5,159.00.

9. Payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services), request for approval of courses, proof of successful course completion, and request for approval of a mentor shall be sent by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

You may also submit this information online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System, here:

<https://app.wi.gov/DSPSMonitoring>

10. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 3264-15) to practice dentistry in the state of Wisconsin, or Respondent's right to renew his license, may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Board may, in addition and/or in the alternative refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

11. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

by: Matthew Bistanjic A
A Member of the Board

5/6/2020
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

STEPHEN A. SEVENICH, D.D.S.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0006784

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 DEN 105

Respondent Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

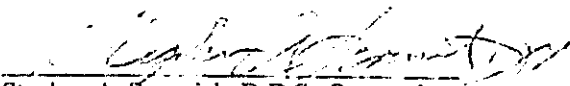
1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.
2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:
 - the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
 - the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
 - the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
 - the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
 - the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
 - the right to petition for rehearing; and
 - all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.
3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Respondent is represented by Attorney Julia Semenak and Attorney Frank Recker.
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.


6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

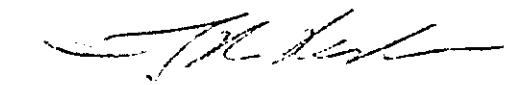
8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.


Stephen A. Sevenich, D.D.S., Respondent
1551 Park Place, Suite 300
Green Bay, WI 54304-1969
License no. 3264-15

April 7, 2020
Date


Julia Semenak, Attorney for Respondent
Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen, S.C.
1243 N. 10th Street, Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53205

4/17/20
Date


Frank Recker, Attorney for Respondent
Frank R. Recker & Associates, Co., LPA
One W. 4th Street, Suite 2606
Cincinnati, OH 45202

4-13-20
Date


Zachary Peters, Attorney
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

4/20/2020
Date