

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

TOM ELDRIDGE, D.D.S.,  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

**ORDER 0008035**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 DEN 104

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

Tom Eldridge, D.D.S.  
Glendale, WI 53209

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 Tom Eldridge, D.D.S., (Year of Birth 1977) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice dentistry, having license number 6723-15, first issued on June 8, 2011 and current through September 30, 2023. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Glendale, Wisconsin 53209.

2. At all relevant times, Respondent practiced dentistry at a dental clinic in Jackson, Wisconsin (Clinic).

3. On August 27, 2021, the Department received a complaint from a patient regarding the care he received at the Clinic. This case was opened to investigate the complaint.

4. During the course of the Department's investigation, Respondent was asked to provide proof of compliance with his continuing education (CE) requirements for the October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021 biennium.

5. On his 2021 license renewal application, Respondent checked the box attesting that he had completed the 30 hours of required CE during the preceding two years, including the two hours of CE on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances.

6. Respondent provided proof to the Department that he completed the required 30 hours of CE for the biennium. However, Respondent did not provide proof he completed two hours of CE on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances.

7. The Department's investigation did not uncover any violations regarding Respondent's care of the patient.

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

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The 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. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct by violating any provision of ch. 447, Stats., or any valid rule of the Board, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § DE 5.02(16).

3. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 447.07(3)(b), a dentist may be disciplined for making any false statement or giving any false information in connection with an application for a license or for renewal of a license.

4. Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § DE 13.03(1m), the 30 credit hours of continuing education shall include 2 hours in the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute dental pain. This subsection applies to the bienniums ending in 2019 and 2021.

5. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 447.07(3)(a), (b), and (f).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

3. Respondent's license to practice dentistry in the state of Wisconsin (license number 6723-15), and his right to renew such license, is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at his own expense, successfully complete two (2) hours of education on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute dental pain offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.
  - b. All education completed pursuant to this Order shall be taken in person. The Board's monitoring liaison may approve course(s) to be taken via webinar, online, or otherwise remotely, in response to a request from Respondent.
  - 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. 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, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
  - d. The Board monitoring liaison may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Respondent. The monitoring liaison may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.
  - e. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all the ordered education.
4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$762.00.
5. Any requests, petitions, payments of costs (made payable to Department of Safety and Professional Services), and other information required by this Order shall be submitted to:

Department Monitor  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190  
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264  
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov


Respondent may also submit this information online at: <https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (number 6723-15), 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.

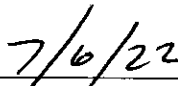
7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

By:

  
A Member of the Board

Date



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

TOM ELDRIDGE, D.D.S.,  
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

**ORDER 0008035**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 DEN 104

Respondent Tom Eldridge, 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.

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, 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. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order will be reported as required by the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) Guidebook and as otherwise required by any licensure compact or any other state or federal law.

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



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Tom Eldridge, D.D.S., Respondent  
Glendale, WI 53209  
License No. 6723-15

28Jun2022

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Date



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

6/28/2022

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Date