

## 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	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
BRUCE M. TRIMBLE, D.D.S.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	<b>ORDER0008933</b>

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 DEN 121

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

Bruce M. Trimble, D.D.S.  
Menomonie, WI 54751

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. Bruce M. Trimble, D.D.S. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1964) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice dentistry, having license number 5379-15, first issued on June 15, 2001, 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 Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751.

2. At all times relevant to these matters, Respondent owned his own dental practice located in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

3. In December 2018, Patient A received treatment from a provider other than Respondent for an abscessed tooth. She was prescribed antibiotics and referred to a periodontist

for gum flap surgery. Upon learning that she would not be able to obtain a periodontic appointment for four months, Patient A sought care from Respondent.

4. On December 21, 2018, Patient A presented to Respondent's office for a consultation. Respondent's notes indicate that Patient A had received past periodontic scaling, had not had her teeth cleaned in two years, and had bone loss in tooth #10. She was advised to return for an examination, x-rays, and periodontal charting.

5. On December 26, 2018, Patient A returned to Respondent's office for an examination. Patient A had four missing teeth, #2, #16, #17, and #32. Teeth #5 and #20 were fractured and in need of restoration. Respondent noted that Patient A had "chronic periodontitis, has had SRP in past."

6. After a periodontal assessment, hand and cavitron scaling on her entire dentition, and debriding, Patient A received Arestin on the medial side of tooth #10. Treatment notes indicate that Respondent obtained an x-ray of tooth #10. The images of tooth #10, documented as obtained on December 26, 2018, are not present in Patient A's records.

7. On January 25, 2019, Patient A returned for restorative procedures on teeth #5 and #30. Respondent's notes indicate that Patient A was referred for orthodontic care. Respondent asserts this referral was documented in error.

8. On February 22, 2019, Patient A presented for a resin-based composite to tooth #20 and a crown to tooth #30. Prior to cementation of tooth #30, isolating probing depth was noted with 7-8mm of furcation. Arestin was applied to tooth #30.

9. Between April 2019 and January 2020, Patient A returned to Respondent's office several times for periodontal maintenance and restorative procedures.

10. On May 8, 2020, Patient A presented to Respondent with gingival soreness in the area of teeth #4 and #5. Periodontic examination revealed a probing depth on the mesial side of tooth #5 of 10mm and 8mm on the lingual side. Adjacent teeth were less than 4mm. Respondent noted subgingival calculus and diagnosed a perio abscess of tooth #5. Despite these findings, Respondent did not refer Patient A to a periodontist.

11. Notes from the May 8, 2020 visit indicate intraoral-periapical x-rays were taken of teeth #4 and #5. These images are not present in Patient A's records.

12. On May 12, 2020, Patient A returned for scaling and root planing (SRP) on tooth #5 and Arestin placement.

13. On June 4, 2020, Patient A presented with pain in the area of teeth #14 and #15. Examination revealed a 9mm pocket with heavy bleeding and exudate at tooth #14. While probing, subgingival calculus was felt. Patient A was advised to make an appointment for SRP and Arestin placement "at her soonest convenience" to clear infection and hope to regain bone. Patient A was not referred to a periodontist.

14. Notes from the June 4, 2020 visit stated “Radiographic: mild to moderate bone loss #14-15 area.” These images are not present in Patient A’s records.

15. From June through August 2020, Patient A continued to be seen with increasing periodontal issues. On August 7, 2020, Patient A was found to have “very advanced perio” with “extensive bone loss and very deep pockets on several upper teeth.” Notes indicate that Patient A may not “fully understand[] what is going on and why she needs treatment.” No referral to a periodontist is noted in the records.

16. Records of Respondent’s care of Patient A reflect inadequate charting, failure to either obtain or retain necessary radiographic images prior to care, and a failure to refer Patient A to a periodontist, all of which were required to meet the minimal standard of care.

17. During the Department’s investigation, the Department requested Respondent provide documentation of all continuing education completed during the 2019-2021 biennium. There is no documentation indicating Respondent completed any education on responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute dental pain.

18. 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. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent practiced in a manner which substantially departed from the standard of care ordinarily exercised by a dentist which harms or could have harmed a patient within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § DE 5.02(5).

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent failed to complete two (2) hours of continuing education on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute dental pain within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § DE 13.03(1m).

4. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 447.07 and Wis. Admin. Code § DE 5.02.

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

3. The license issued to Respondent to practice dentistry in the State of Wisconsin (license number 5379-15), is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at his own expense, successfully complete a total of twenty (20) hours of education, consisting of: four (4) hours on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances, twelve (12) hours on referral for care, and four (4) hours on proper charting/record keeping. Each course attended in satisfaction of this Order must be pre-approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall be responsible for locating course(s) satisfactory to the Board and for obtaining the required approval of the course(s) from the Board or its designee. Respondent must take and pass any exam offered for the course(s).
- 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's 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 \$1,350.00. If costs are not paid within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, interest shall accrue at the statutory rate of 12% per annum, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.22(2).

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 (5379-15), 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: Shahed Gwani  
A Member of the Board

1/3/2024  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

BRUCE M. TRIMBLE, D.D.S.,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
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:  
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STIPULATION

**ORDER0008933**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 DEN 121

Bruce M. Trimble, D.D.S. (Respondent), 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

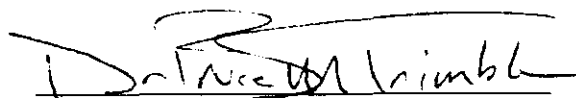
of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

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.



Bruce M. Trimble, D.D.S., Respondent  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
License No. 5379-15

10/20/23  
Date



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

December 6, 2023  
Date