

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

In re: Dennis Flanagan, D.D.S.

Petition No. 2018-1193

**CONSENT ORDER**

WHEREAS, Dennis Flanagan of Willimantic (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued license number 004378 to practice dentistry by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 379 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. On or about July 2, 2018, respondent provided care to Patient #1, who sought to obtain pre-surgical clearance for open-heart surgery which was scheduled for July 17, 2018. Respondent's care for Patient #1 failed to meet the standard of care in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Respondent unnecessarily required root canal treatment for teeth #21 and #28 prior to clearing Patient#1 for surgery, in that the teeth had no signs of apical pathology, or current active disease or infection;
  - b. Respondent failed to obtain further testing/studies including Cone Beam Computed Tomography, and/or the opinion of an endodontist to support either treatment or non-treatment of teeth #21 and/or #28;
  - c. Respondent did not obtain informed consent from Patient #1 regarding the potential risks of treating or not treating teeth #21 and/or #28, or of complications of endodontic treatment or extraction;

- d. Respondent mesially perforated the root of tooth #28 while attempting to perform endodontic treatment, was unable to complete the root canal and immediately extracted the tooth; and/or
- e. While performing endodontic treatment of tooth #28, respondent failed to properly place a rubber dam clamp; failed to document the mesial perforation complication and/or failed to document the magnification used in the attempted treatment.

2. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-114, including, but not limited to §20-114(2).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, has chosen not to contest this matter and agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the State Dental Commission (hereinafter "the Commission"), this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-114(2) of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-114(2) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives respondent's right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's license number 004378 to practice as a dentist in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent's license shall be placed on probation under the following terms and conditions:
  - a. Within six months of the effective date of this Consent Order, respondent shall attend and successfully complete coursework in informed consent; assessing patients' dental

health prior to cardiac surgery; treatment planning; and diagnosing and decision-making in medically compromised patients.

b. The probationary period shall be deemed terminated upon proof of respondent's successful completion of such coursework to the Department's satisfaction.

4. All correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

Lavita Sookram, R.N., Nurse Consultant  
Practitioner Compliance and Monitoring Unit  
Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR  
P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

5. All reports required by the terms of this Consent Order shall be due according to a schedule to be established by the Department of Public Health.
6. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to respondent's licensure.
7. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
8. Any alleged violation of any provision of this Consent Order may result in the following procedures at the discretion of the Department:
  - a. The Department shall notify respondent in writing by first-class mail that the term(s) of this Consent Order have been violated, provided that no prior written consent for deviation from said term(s) has been granted.
  - b. Said notification shall include the acts or omission(s) which violate the term(s) of this Consent Order.
  - c. Respondent shall be allowed fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of notification required in paragraph 8.a above to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that respondent has complied with the terms of this Consent Order or, in the alternative, that respondent has cured the violation in question.

- d. If respondent does not demonstrate compliance or cure the violation within the fifteen (15) days specified in the notification of violation to the satisfaction of the Department, respondent shall be entitled to a hearing before the Commission which shall make a final determination of the disciplinary action to be taken.
- e. Evidence presented to the Commission by either the Department or respondent in any such hearing shall be limited to the alleged violation(s) of the term(s) of this Consent Order.

9. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license before the Commission.

10. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.

11. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted and ordered by the Commission.

12. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be deemed a public document, and the Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent proceeding before the Commission in which respondent's compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-114 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue. Further, respondent understands that any discipline imposed by this Consent Order shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank maintained by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

13. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as a dentist, upon request by the Department, with notice to the Commission, for a period not to exceed 45 days. During that time period,

respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation. Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said 45-day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall be considered by the Commission and shall, as a matter of law, constitute a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, sections 4-182(c) and 19a-17(c).

The Department and respondent understand that the Commission has complete and final discretion as to whether a summary suspension is ordered.

14. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Department shall not be a waiver or preclude the Department from taking action at a later time. The Department shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
15. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards and respondent waives any right to seek reconsideration or modification of this Consent Order pursuant to §4-181a of the General Statutes of Connecticut without the express consent and agreement of the Department. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that respondent may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.

16. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
17. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Commission. Respondent understands that the Commission has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted. Respondent hereby waives any claim of error that could be raised that is related to or arises during the course of the Commission's discussions regarding whether to approve or reject this Consent Order and/or a Commission member's participation during this process, through the Commission member's review or comments, including but not limited to bias or reliance on evidence outside the administrative record if this matter proceeds to a hearing on a statement of charges resulting in a proposed decision by the Commission and/or a panel of the Commission and a final decision by the Commission.
18. Respondent understands and agrees that respondent is responsible for satisfying all of the terms of this Consent Order during vacations and other periods in which respondent is away from respondent's residence.
19. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
20. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only, and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.

21. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case.

All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

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I, Dennis Flanagan, have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.



Dennis Flanagan, D.D.S.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2021.

**NICOLINA SOUCY**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES OCT. 31, 2022

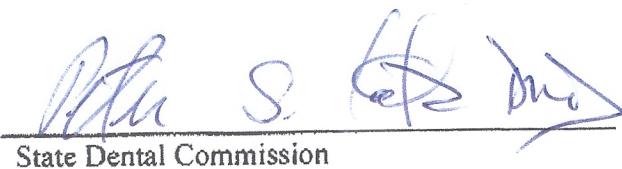
Nicolina Soucy  
Notary Public or person authorized  
by law to administer an oath or affirmation

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 27th day of September 2021, it is hereby accepted.



Christian D. Andresen, MPH, CPH, Section Chief  
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section  
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the State Dental Commission on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

  
State Dental Commission