

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

In Re: :
: **Seyed Hamid Tofigh, DDS** :
: :
Applicant :

ORDER DENYING LICENSURE

Jurisdiction

This matter comes before the District of Columbia Board of Dentistry (the “Board”) pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 *ff.* (2016 Repl.), otherwise known as the Health Occupations Revision Act (the “HORA”). The HORA, at D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.01(b) (2016 Repl.), authorizes the Board to regulate the practices of dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental assistants in the District of Columbia.

Background

On or about March 24, 2025, the Board issued a Notice of Intent to Deny Applicant’s application for a dental license (the “Notice”). The Notice charged Applicant with the following bases for the proposed denial:

- Charge I:** You were convicted by a court for conduct that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section, for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(3).
- Charge II:** You filed a credential with the Board you knew was false or Misleading in violation of D.C. Code § 3-1210.04(a), for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(24).
- Charge III:** You filed a statement with the Board that you knew was false or misleading in violation of D.C. Official Code § 3-1210.04(b), for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(24).
- Charge IV:** You fraudulently or deceptively attempted to obtain a license for

yourself, for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(1).

Charge V: You were convicted of an offense that is directly related to the practice of dentistry, for which the board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(4) after full consideration of the factors set forth in D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(f).

Pursuant to Title 17 DCMR § 4105.2(a), the Notice was mailed to the Applicant's address on file with the Board via U.S. Postal Service Certified Mail. According to the Postal Service tracking records, on March 29, 2025, the system noted "Forward Expired" and on March 31, 2025, the system noted "Return to Sender Processed." The Notice was thereafter returned to the Board on April 22, 2025. Pursuant to Title 17 DCMR § 4105.5, service was deemed to have been made on March 29, 2025. The Notice advised Applicant that he had twenty (20) days following receipt of the Notice in which to request a hearing. Applicant did not submit a timely request for a hearing in this matter.

On or about September 19, 2025, Applicant submitted an email to the Board stating, "As I have previously communicated, both verbally and in writing, I would like to formally withdraw my application with the District of Columbia Board of Dentistry. I kindly request that my application be withdrawn permanently from your records."

At the October 15, 2025, regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, the Board voted to deny Applicant's request to withdraw his application.

Investigative Findings of Fact

Based upon the content of the Board's file in this matter, the Board hereby makes the following findings of fact:

1. On February 6, 2024, Applicant pled guilty to one count of Defrauding a State Health Plan and one count of Practicing Dentistry Without a License in Prince George's County, Maryland.
2. Applicant was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment, with all but seventy-eight (78) days suspended and credited, placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, ordered to home detention for 18 months, and ordered to pay 8.5 Million Dollars in restitution.
3. As part of the plea, Applicant admitted to making false representations of material fact by submitting or causing to be submitted to Medicaid claims for reimbursement using the names and provider numbers of other dental practitioners who did not perform the dental services.
4. The names used by Applicant included the names of his relatives and his former practice partner.
5. As part of the plea, Applicant admitted to practicing dentistry in the State of Maryland without a license.
6. On March 14, 2014, the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners (the "Maryland Board") summarily suspended Applicant's Maryland dental license.
7. On February 25, 2015, Applicant entered into a consent order with the Maryland Board in which he agreed to the revocation of his Maryland dental license.
8. After agreeing to the revocation of his Maryland dental license, and after his Maryland dental license was in fact revoked, Applicant continued to practice dentistry in Maryland using the names of his relatives and of other dentists.
9. On or about April 12, 2021, Applicant applied to the Maryland Board for a dental license. On or about December 1, 2021, the Maryland Board notified Applicant of its intent to deny his application.
10. On or about March 2, 2023, the Maryland Board entered into a Consent Order with Applicant for the approval of his application subject to the terms of the Consent Order which included placing his license on probation status.
11. On or about February 5, 2024, Applicant submitted to the Maryland Board the Permanent Surrender of Applicant's Maryland dental license, which was ordered as part of his February 6, 2024, guilty plea in the Circuit Court for Prince George's

County, Maryland to one (1) count of Defrauding a State Health Plan and one (1) count of Practicing Dentistry Without a License.

12. On or about February 21, 2024, approximately two (2) weeks after being convicted and permanently surrendering his Maryland dental license, Applicant applied for a dentist license in the District of Columbia.
13. On the February 21, 2024, dental application, Applicant answered “no” to Question 1 of the Screening Questions, which asks, “Have you ever been arrested, charged, convicted, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to the violation of any criminal law of any jurisdiction whether misdemeanor or felony, including driving under the influence or while impaired, but excluding minor traffic violations)? Please note that a charge or conviction does not necessarily mean a barrier to licensure.”
14. On the February 21, 2024, dental application, Applicant answered “no” to Question 3 of the Screening Questions, which asks, “Have you ever voluntarily surrendered a license or registration certificate, or allowed it to lapse, after formal charges had been brought against you or while you were under investigation?”
15. Although he answered “no” to Question 1 of the Screening Questions, Applicant wrote in the description section, “made a plea deal with Maryland state attorney to refund their payments.”
16. Applicant did not disclose that on February 6, 2024, he pled guilty to defrauding a state health plan and to practicing dentistry without a license.
17. Applicant did not disclose that he was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment, with all but seventy-eight (78) days suspended and credited, placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, and ordered to home detention for 18 months.
18. Applicant did not disclose that as part of his sentence he was ordered to permanently surrender his license to practice dentistry and to refrain from providing healthcare services (state and federally).
19. Applicant signed his Probation/Supervision form acknowledging his consent to the terms of his probation on February 6, 2024, stating that he read or had read to him the conditions of his probation, that he understood the conditions, and that he agreed to follow the conditions.
20. As part of the application, by selecting “Agree,” Applicant agreed to the Applicant Affidavit which states, “I hereby attest that the information given in this application, including all writings and exhibits attached hereto, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the making of a false statement on this application,

including all writings and exhibits attached hereto, is punishable by criminal penalties.”

21. As part of his application requirements, Applicant submitted a document which he purported to be his National Practitioner Databank self-query report.
22. Applicant fraudulently altered the self-query report he submitted.
23. The self-query report submitted by Applicant, dated March 5, 2024, indicated that there were “no reports” regarding state licensure or certification actions, exclusion or debarment actions, government administrative actions, professional society actions, or judicial or conviction reports against Applicant.
24. Board staff detected Applicant’s document alterations and queried the National Practitioner Databank. The query conducted by the Board staff revealed the disciplinary actions taken by the Maryland Board against Applicant’s Maryland Dental license and Applicant’s Maryland conviction.
25. As part of the application requirements for a District of Columbia dentist license, Applicant was required to submit a Self-Query Report from the National Practitioner Databank¹.
26. Failure to submit the self-query report would have made Applicant’s application incomplete and ineligible for approval.
27. The self-query report was a material credential of Applicant’s application.
28. The answers provided by an Applicant in response to Question 1 and Question 3 of the Screening Questions, and the attachments to his application he submitted are material.
29. Applicant submitted false and fraudulent claims for reimbursement of dental procedures using the identities of other dentists and continued to practice dentistry without a license after his license was revoked by the Maryland Board. These actions are directly related to the practice of the occupation of dentistry.
30. Applicant committed over eight million dollars in healthcare and Medicaid fraud while practicing without a license in violation of the order revoking his license.
31. Applicant’s conduct warranted the permanent surrender of his Maryland dental license and his criminal conviction.
32. Applicant committed these offenses when he was in his later 40s to late 50s, and was convicted of these offenses when he was 57 years old.
33. Applicant did not submit any evidence of rehabilitation or letters of support.

Conclusions of Law

D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14 provides, in pertinent part:

(a) Each board, subject to the right of a hearing as provided by this subchapter, on an affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may take one or more of the disciplinary actions provided in subsection (c) of this section against any Applicant, Applicant, or person permitted by this subchapter to practice the health occupation regulated by the board in the District who: (3) was convicted by a court for conduct that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section; (24) filed a credential with the Board that he knew was false or misleading; (24) filed a statement with the Board that he knew was false or misleading; (1) fraudulently or deceptively attempted to obtain a license for himself; and (4) was convicted of an offense that is directly related to the practice of dentistry.

(c) Upon determination by the board that an Applicant, Applicant, or person permitted by this subchapter to practice in the District has committed any of the acts described in subsection (a) of this section, the board may:

- (1) **Deny a license to any applicant, Applicant, or person permitted by this subchapter to practice;**
- (2) Revoke or suspend the license, registration or certification of any Applicant, or person permitted by this subchapter to practice in the District;
- (3) Revoke or suspend the privilege to practice in the District of any person permitted by this subchapter to practice in the District;
- (4) Reprimand any Applicant or person permitted by this subchapter to practice in the District;
- (5) Impose a civil fine not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation by any applicant, Applicant, or person permitted by this subchapter to practice in the District;
- (6) Require a course of remediation, approved by the board, which may include:
 - (A) Therapy or treatment;
 - (B) Retraining; and
 - (C) Reexamination, in the discretion of and in the manner prescribed by the board, after the completion of the course of remediation;
- (7) Require a period of probation; or

¹ The National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) is a web-based repository of reports containing information on medical malpractice payments and certain adverse actions related to health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers. Established by Congress in 1986, it is a workforce tool that prevents practitioners from moving state to state without disclosure or discovery of previous damaging performance. Federal regulations authorize [eligible entities](#) to report to and/or query the NPDB. Individuals and organizations who are subjects of these reports have access to their own information. The reports are confidential, and not available to the public. The NPDB assists in promoting quality health care and deterring fraud and abuse within health care delivery systems. (Source <https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov>).

(8) Issue a cease and desist order pursuant to § 3-1205.16.

I: Convicted by a court for conduct that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section

On February 6, 2024, Applicant pled guilty in the Circuit Court of Prince George's County, Maryland to one (1) count of Defrauding a State Health Plan, and one (1) count of Practicing Dentistry Without a License. As part of the plea, Applicant admitted to making false representations of material fact by submitting or causing to be submitted to Medicaid, claims for reimbursement using the names and provider numbers of other dental practitioners who did not perform the dental services. The names used by Applicant included the names of his relatives and a former practice partner.

Applicant also admitted to practicing dentistry in the State of Maryland without a license. The Maryland Board of Dental Examiner's summarily suspended Applicant's dental license on March 14, 2014. Applicant subsequently entered into a consent order with the Maryland Board on February 25, 2015, in which he agreed to the revocation of his Maryland dental license. However, after agreeing to the revocation of his Maryland dental license, and after his Maryland dental license was in fact revoked, Applicant continued to practice dentistry in Maryland until October 2017, using the names of his relatives and of other dentists.

Applicant was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment, with all but seventy-eight (78) days suspended and credited, placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, ordered to home detention for 18 months, and ordered to pay 8.5 Million Dollars in restitution. The Board finds that the court's acceptance of Applicant's guilty plea and the entry of judgment constitute a conviction by a court.

The conduct of which Applicant was convicted for included, fraudulently using the identities of other dentists to submit or cause to be submitted claims for reimbursement by Medicaid

for services that were not provided by the dentists whose identities were used. Additionally, Applicant engaged in the practice of dentistry in Maryland without a license and in violation of the Maryland Board order revoking his Maryland dental license.

In the District of Columbia, submitting fraudulent or false claims to Medicaid for reimbursement would be grounds for disciplinary action under D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(45) “Commits fraud or makes false claims in connection with the practice of an occupation regulated by this chapter, or relating to Medicaid, Medicare, or insurance.”

Likewise, in the District of Columbia, practicing dentistry without a license would be grounds for disciplinary action under D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(24) “Violates any provision of this chapter or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this chapter,” for violating § 3-1205.01(a)(1) “A license issued pursuant to this chapter is required to practice... dentistry...”

Additionally, in the District of Columbia, practicing dentistry in violation of a Board revocation order would be grounds for disciplinary action under D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(27) “Violates an order of the board or the Mayor, or violates a consent decree or negotiated settlement agreement entered into with a board or the Mayor.”

Based upon the aforementioned, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence and concludes as a matter of law that Applicant was convicted by a court for conduct that would be grounds for disciplinary action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a), for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(3).

II: Filed a credential with the Board Applicant knew was false or misleading

The findings and conclusions set forth in Section I are hereby incorporated by reference.

On or about February 21, 2024, Applicant applied for a dentist license in the District of Columbia. As part of the application, by selecting “Agree,” Applicant agreed to the Applicant

Affidavit which states, “I hereby attest that the information given in this application, including all writings and exhibits attached hereto, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the making of a false statement on this application, including all writings and exhibits attached hereto, is punishable by criminal penalties.” As part of his application requirements, Applicant submitted a document which he purported to be his National Practitioner Databank self-query report. Based upon review of the document submitted by Applicant, the Board staff detected that alterations had been made to the report. Therefore, the Board staff queried the National Practitioner Databank and obtained a report on Applicant. A comparison of the self-query report Applicant submitted and the report obtained by Board staff found that Applicant had fraudulently altered the self-query report he submitted.

The self-query report submitted by Applicant, dated March 5, 2024, indicated that there were “no reports” regarding state licensure or certification actions, exclusion or debarment actions, government administrative actions, professional society actions, or judicial or conviction reports against Applicant. The query conducted by the Board staff revealed the disciplinary actions taken by the Maryland Board against Applicant’s Maryland Dental license and Applicant’s Maryland conviction.

As part of the application requirements for a District of Columbia dentist license, Applicant was required to submit a Self-Query Report from the National Practitioner Databank². Failure to

² The National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) is a web-based repository of reports containing information on medical malpractice payments and certain adverse actions related to health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers. Established by Congress in 1986, it is a workforce tool that prevents practitioners from moving state to state without disclosure or discovery of previous damaging performance. Federal regulations authorize [eligible entities](#) to report to and/or query the NPDB. Individuals and organizations who are subjects of these reports have access to their own information. The reports are confidential, and not available to the public. The NPDB assists in promoting quality health care and deterring fraud and abuse within health care delivery systems. (Source <https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov>).

submit the self-query report would have made Applicant's application incomplete and ineligible for approval. The self-query report was a material credential of Applicant's application.

Applicant altered his self-query report by cutting and pasting to cover the text that stated "Yes, See Below" next to the category "State Licensure or Certification Action" to make it read "No Reports" instead. Applicant also altered his self-query report by cutting and pasting to cover the text that stated "Yes, See Below" next to the category "Judgement or Conviction Report(s)" to make it read "No Reports" instead. Applicant altered his self-query report by covering over the report's section "C. Summary of Reports on File with the NPDB..." to completely conceal all of the reported summaries and to make it appear that it was the end of the report with only the text remaining "Confidential Document- For Authorized Use Only".

The Board finds that by fraudulently altering the self-query report to conceal his criminal conviction and the disciplinary actions taken against his license by the Maryland Board of Dentistry and then submitting the document as a true and accurate representation of his self-query report, Applicant filed a credential with the Board that was false or misleading.

Based upon the aforementioned, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence and concludes as a matter of law that Applicant filed a credential with the Board that he knew was false or misleading in violation of D.C. Code § 3-1210.04(a), for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a) (24).

III: Filed a statement with the Board that you knew was false or misleading

The findings and conclusions set forth in Sections I and II are hereby incorporated by reference.

On or about February 21, 2024, approximately two (2) weeks after being convicted and permanently surrendering his Maryland dental license, Applicant applied for a dentist license in the District of Columbia. On the February 21, 2024, dental application, Applicant answered "no" to

Question 1 of the Screening Questions, which asks, “Have you ever been arrested, charged, convicted, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to the violation of any criminal law of any jurisdiction whether misdemeanor or felony, including driving under the influence or while impaired, but excluding minor traffic violations)? Please note that a charge or conviction does not necessarily mean a barrier to licensure.” Although he answered “no” to Question 1 of the Screening Questions, Applicant wrote in the description section, “made a plea deal with Maryland state attorney to refund their payments.” Applicant did not disclose that on February 6, 2024, he pled guilty to defrauding a state health plan and to practicing dentistry without a license. Applicant did not disclose that he was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment, with all but seventy-eight (78) days suspended and credited, placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, and ordered to home detention for 18 months. Applicant did not disclose that as part of his sentence he was ordered to permanently surrender his license to practice dentistry and to refrain from providing healthcare services (state and federally). Applicant signed his Probation/Supervision form acknowledging his consent to the terms of his probation on February 6, 2024, stating that he read or had read to him the conditions of his probation, that he understood the conditions, and that he agreed to follow the conditions.

Also on the February 21, 2024, dental application, Applicant answered “no” to Question 3 of the Screening Questions, which asks, “Have you ever voluntarily surrendered a license or registration certificate, or allowed it to lapse, after formal charges had been brought against you or while you were under investigation?” However, Applicant had submitted a letter of permanent surrender of his Maryland dental license to the Maryland Board on or about February 6, 2024. The first line of Applicant’s letter surrendering his license to the Maryland Board reads, “I agree to voluntarily and permanently surrender my license to practice as a dentist in the state of Maryland...” Yet, approximately two weeks later, he submitted an application for licensure to the

District of Columbia Board and falsely answered “no” to the question which asked if he had ever voluntarily surrendered a license.

As part of the application, by selecting “Agree,” Applicant agreed to the Applicant Affidavit which states, “I hereby attest that the information given in this application, including all writings and exhibits attached hereto, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the making of a false statement on this application, including all writings and exhibits attached hereto, is punishable by criminal penalties.” The Board finds that Applicant knew that his answers of “no” to Screening questions #1 and #3, were false and misleading when he submitted his application to the Board.

Based upon the aforementioned, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence and concludes as a matter of law that Applicant filed a statement with the Board that he knew was false or in violation of D.C. Official Code § 3-1210.04(b), for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(24).

IV: Fraudulently or deceptively attempted to obtain a license for yourself

The findings and conclusions set forth in Sections I-III are hereby incorporated by reference.

As discussed *supra*, the Board has found that Applicant filed a credential with the Board that he knew was false or misleading when he altered his National Practitioner Databank Self-query report to hide the information related to his previous disciplinary actions and his criminal conviction, and submitted the altered report as part of his application.

As discussed *supra*, the Board has found that Applicant filed a statement with the Board that he knew was false or misleading when he answered “no” to screening question #1 which asked, “Have you ever been arrested, charged, convicted, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to the violation of any criminal law of any jurisdiction whether misdemeanor or felony, including driving under the

influence or while impaired, but excluding minor traffic violations)? Please note that a charge or conviction does not necessarily mean a barrier to licensure.” the Board has found that Applicant filed a statement with the Board that he knew was false or misleading when he answered “no” to screening question #3 which asked, “Have you ever voluntarily surrendered a license or registration certificate, or allowed it to lapse, after formal charges had been brought against you or while you were under investigation?”

The Board has found that the answers of “no” to both questions was false and misleading. In truth, only a couple of weeks prior to submitting his application, Applicant had been convicted of a violation of criminal law and had permanently voluntarily surrendered his Maryland dental license.

The Board finds that Applicant submitted the false and fraudulent statements on his application, and submitted the altered National Practitioner Databank report as part of his application to conceal the egregious conduct that he had committed to increase the likelihood that his application would be approved.

Based upon the aforementioned, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence and concludes as a matter of law that Applicant fraudulently or deceptively attempted to obtain a license for himself, for which the Board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(1).

Charge V: You were convicted of an offense that is directly related to the practice of dentistry, for which the board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(4) after full consideration of the factors set forth in D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(f).

The findings and conclusions set forth in Sections I-IV are hereby incorporated by reference.

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(f):

“(f) When determining whether to deny an application or initiate disciplinary action against a person permitted to practice a health occupation regulated by a board for a conviction pursuant to this subsection, a board shall consider:

(1) Whether the offense is related to the occupation for which the license, registration, or certification is sought or held by considering the duties and responsibilities of the health occupation;

(2) The nature and seriousness of the offense;

(3) The length of time that has elapsed since the offense was committed;

(4) The age of the person at the time the offense was committed;

(5) Any evidence produced by the applicant, licensee, registrant, person certified, or person permitted by this chapter to practice in the District concerning their rehabilitation and fitness, including:

(A) Evidence as to whether the applicant, licensee, registrant, person certified, or person permitted by this chapter to practice in the District has recidivated; and

(B) Evidence demonstrating compliance with any terms and conditions of probation, supervised release, or parole;

(6) Evidence of work history, particularly any training or work experience related to the occupation; and

(7) Letters of reference.”

Consideration of the factors:

(1) Whether the offense is related to the occupation for which the license, registration, or certification is sought or held by considering the duties and responsibilities of the health occupation:

The Board finds that Applicant was convicted of two (2) offenses which are both related to the occupation for which he is seeking a dental license. On February 6, 2024, Applicant pled guilty in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland to one (1) count of Defrauding a State Health Plan and one (1) count of Practicing Dentistry Without a License. As part of the plea, Applicant admitted to making false representations of material fact by submitting or causing to be submitted to Medicaid claims for reimbursement using the names and provider numbers of other dental practitioners who did not perform the dental services.

Applicant practiced dentistry without a license and in violation of a Maryland Board of Dental Examiner's revocation order, which is directly related to the practice of dentistry, which is the profession for which he is seeking license. Licensure is required in both the state of Maryland as well as in the District of Columbia in order to legally engage in the practice of dentistry.

Additionally, Applicant defrauded a State Health Plan while practicing dentistry without a license. Applicant made false representations of material fact by submitting or causing to be submitted to Medicaid claims for reimbursement for the provision of dental services by fraudulently using the names and provider numbers of other dental practitioners. In doing so, he falsely represented and attested that the dental services he performed had been performed by other dental providers who were validly licensed in the state of Maryland. Applicant's actions were performed in connection with his practice of dentistry in the state of Maryland and conducted for the purpose of fraudulently receiving reimbursement for dental services that he provided while unlicensed. Without these false representations he would not have received reimbursement for the claims submitted to Medicaid for payment.

Based on the aforementioned, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence and concludes as a matter of law that Applicant was convicted of offenses which are related to the

occupation for which licensure is sought considering the duties and responsibilities of the health occupation.

(2) The nature and seriousness of the offense:

Based upon his criminal convictions, Applicant was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment, with all but seventy-eight (78) days suspended and credited, placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, ordered to home detention for 18 months, and ordered to pay 8.5 Million Dollars in restitution.

On March 14, 2014, the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners (the “Maryland Board”) summarily suspended Applicant’s Maryland dental license having concluded that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively required emergency action. On February 25, 2015, Applicant entered into a consent order with the Maryland Board in which he agreed to the revocation of his Maryland dental license. However, despite agreeing to the revocation of his Maryland dental license, and after his Maryland dental license was in fact revoked, Applicant nevertheless continued to practice dentistry in Maryland using the names of his relatives and of other dentists.

The Board finds that it was a serious and egregious offense for Applicant to continue practicing dentistry in Maryland after the Maryland Board determined that the Respondent should not be allowed to practice dentistry in the state of Maryland. The actions taken by the Maryland Board were based on determinations that summary suspension of Applicant’s license was necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland residents, and that Applicant’s conduct as a dental practitioner was such that revocation of his dental license was necessary.

Further, the Board finds that it was a serious and egregious offense for Applicant to defraud the State Health Plan. Applicant accomplished his unlicensed practice by fraudulently using the identities of other dental practitioners to submit claims to Medicaid for reimbursement of the dental services he provided. Applicant committed eight million five hundred thousand dollars in

healthcare and Medicaid fraud. His conduct was sufficiently serious and egregious enough to warrant the permanent surrender of his Maryland dental license, and a sentence of five (5) years of imprisonment, and a special condition from the court requiring Applicant to permanently surrender his license to practice dentistry and to refrain from providing healthcare services (State and Federally). Though the court found cause to suspend his incarceration and to impose a period of home detention instead, the Board finds that the seriousness of the offense remains.

Based on the aforementioned, the Board finds that the nature and seriousness of the offenses supports a determination to deny Applicant's application for a dental license.

(3) The length of time that has elapsed since the offense was committed:

Applicant was convicted of these offenses merely days before he applied for a dental license in the District of Columbia.

As set forth in Count One of his indictment, to which he pled guilty, beginning on or about January 1, 2015, and continuing through December 2022, Applicant defrauded a State Health Plan. As set forth in Count Seven of his indictment, to which he pled guilty, beginning on or about February 25, 2015, and continuing through March 2023, Applicant practiced dentistry without a license in the state of Maryland.

Applicant submitted an application to the District of Columbia Board of Dentistry for a dental license on February 21, 2024. The length of time that had elapsed since Applicant had defrauded a State Health Plan was approximately fourteen (14) months. The length of time that had elapsed since Applicant had practiced without a license was approximately eleven (11) months.

Based on the aforementioned, the Board finds that the offenses were recently committed and that this factor supports a determination to deny Applicant's application for a dental license.

(4) The age of the person at the time the offense was committed:

As previously discussed, the offenses were committed between 2015 and 2023. During that time period, Applicant was between 48 and 56 years old. The Board finds that the offenses were committed by the Respondent as an adult in the middle-aged years of his life. The Board finds neither the excuse of youth nor senility present. Therefore the Board finds that this factor supports a determination to deny Applicant's application for a dental license.

(5) Any evidence produced by the applicant, licensee, registrant, person certified, or person permitted by this chapter to practice in the District concerning their rehabilitation and fitness:

(A) Evidence as to whether the applicant, licensee, registrant, person certified, or person permitted by this chapter to practice in the District has recidivated;

(B) Evidence demonstrating compliance with any terms and conditions of probation, supervised release, or parole;

(6) Evidence of work history, particularly any training or work experience related to the occupation; and

(7) Letters of reference.

As discussed supra, shortly after being convicted, Applicant submitted an application for licensure to this Board containing false and misleading statements and a fraudulently altered National Practitioner Data bank report which was altered to conceal the negative information on his report. The Board finds that this fraudulent conduct is a continuation of the Applicant's fraudulent and deceptive behavior by which he defrauded a State Health Plan and practiced without a license. Only two (2) weeks after pleading guilty, Applicant submitted a fraudulently altered document and application containing false and misleading statements in an attempt to increase the likelihood that he would be approved for a license in the District of Columbia.

In addition to the conduct of altering the National Practitioner Databank Report, the Board finds that by applying for a dental license Applicant may be in violation of his probation order. As previously stated, in addition to requiring the permanent surrender of his license to practice dentistry, one of the special conditions that the court imposed was that Applicant shall refrain from providing healthcare services (State and Federally). Yet only two (2) weeks later, Applicant applied for a license to practice dentistry in the District of Columbia.

Applicant did not submit to the Board any evidence of rehabilitation. Moreover, the Board finds that Applicant's conduct shows that no rehabilitation has occurred since his conviction, and that Applicant has engaged in conduct evidencing the likelihood of recidivism. The Board finds that these factors support a determination to deny Applicant's application for a dental license.

Based upon the aforementioned, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence and concludes as a matter of law that Applicant was convicted of an offense that is directly related to the practice of dentistry, for which the board may take the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(a)(4), and for which the Board has given full consideration of the factors set forth in D.C. Code § 3-1205.14(f).

Decision

In formulating its decision as to the appropriate sanction to be imposed, the Board took into consideration the nature of the charges, and the Board's paramount duty to protect the public.

The Board has found that all five (5) bases for denial set forth in the Notice have been proven by a preponderance of the evidence. The Board further finds that any one of these bases, separate and apart from the others, is sufficient to support the denial of Applicant's application.

The Board has a statutory duty to ensure that the health professionals it licenses have the required competency, professionalism, and ethical judgment to safely practice the profession.

The Board finds that Applicant has not demonstrated to the Board that he should be licensed to practice dentistry in the District of Columbia, or that it would be in the best interests of the District's residents to grant him a license. The Maryland Board of Dental Examiners took action to protect its citizens by revoking Applicant's license. Applicant even consented to the revocation order. Yet, Applicant still continued to practice dentistry in violation of the revocation order for years. He deceptively hid his unlicensed practice by using the identities of other dental practitioners and defrauded the State Health Plan of over eight million dollars in doing so.

After his misdeeds finally resulted in his criminal conviction, instead of rehabilitation and remorse, Applicant immediately submitted a fraudulent application to the District of Columbia Board of Dentistry.

The Board finds that Applicant has not demonstrated rehabilitation. Further, the Board finds that Applicant has failed to demonstrate any understanding of the professional ethics required and expected of health professionals practicing dentistry in the District of Columbia, which bears directly upon the applicant's fitness for licensure. Therefore, the Board finds that Applicant has not demonstrated that he should be licensed to practice dentistry in the District of Columbia.

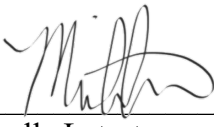
ORDER

Based upon the aforementioned it is hereby **ORDERED** that the application of Seyed Hamid Tofigh, DDS is hereby- **DENIED**, effective as of the date of service of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that Applicant shall not submit a new application to this Board for at least five (5) years from the date of this Order, and it is further

ORDERED that any new application shall contain documentation from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County that either his Probation has ended or that the terms of his Probation permit him to be licensed to practice dentistry.

12/12/2025
Date



Michelle Latortue
Chairperson
District of Columbia Board of Dentistry

Judicial and Administrative Review
of Actions of Board

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.20 (2001):

Any person aggrieved by a final decision of a board or the Mayor may appeal the decision to the **District of Columbia Court of Appeals** pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-510 (2001).

Pursuant to D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 15(a):

Review of orders and decision of an agency shall be obtained by filing with the clerk of this court a petition for review within thirty (30) days after the notice is given.

This is the Final Order of the Board in this disciplinary matter and a public record and shall be posted on the Department of Health's website and Board newsletter, and reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Healthcare Integrity Protection Data bank.

Copies to:

Seyed Hamid Tofigh, DDS
Applicant

Collin Cenci
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Enforcement Division
Counsel for the Government