

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION**

BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

SEPTEMBER 2023  
DATE OF POLICY

23-001  
POLICY NO.

**POLICY**  
**ON INCENTIVIZED TIME PERIOD**  
**FOR REGISTRATION OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS**

To lawfully practice as a dental assistant in the District of Columbia, District of Columbia Code § 3-1205.1(a)(2), states that a registration is required. The District of Columbia Board of Dentistry (Board) may also take disciplinary action against a Licensee who aids an unauthorized person in practicing as a dental assistant in the District, pursuant to D.C. Code § 3-120514(a)(12). Beginning September 17, 2012, registration as a dental assistant in the District of Columbia was required by law for any person to practice as a dental assistant or perform any duties of a dental assistant in the District of Columbia.

The Board has elected to implement this policy to provide a temporary incentivized time period in which to encourage and facilitate unregistered individuals to come into compliance with District of Columbia law. This is not a grant of amnesty. Individuals who have engaged in unregistered practice will remain subject to a penalty as well as the Licensees who have aided in the unauthorized practice. However, those individuals who voluntarily come forward during this time period, pursuant to the parameters set forth in this policy, will receive a greatly reduced financial penalty.

**Incentivized Time Period**

**September 20, 2023 to December 31, 2023**

**Requirements:**

1. Applicant must fully complete and submit the attached cover letter as part of the application for a dental assistant registration or reinstatement of a dental assistant registration.
2. If the Applicant has not been previously registered, the Applicant is eligible to receive a 90-day supervised practice letter.
3. In addition to application fee, Applicant will be subject to an additional monetary assessment of \$250.00 and required to complete two (2) Board-approved continuing education credits in ethics, which may be completed through online courses.
4. Supervising dentists or dental practice owners will be subject to a monetary assessment of \$500.00 for each unregistered dental assistant practicing under their supervision or in their dental office, and required to complete two (2) Board-approved continuing education credits in ethics.

\*Individuals who do not come into compliance during the incentivized time period, or who do not submit the required cover letter, are subject to cumulative monetary assessments compounding for each month of unauthorized practice, formal disciplinary action, and possible criminal referral for practicing without a license. Depending on the number of years of non-compliance, the monetary assessments can range as high as \$5,000.00 for dental assistants and \$30,000.00 for dentists.