

IN AND BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA BOARD  
OF DENTISTRY

JAN 13 2022

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel.,  
THE OKLAHOMA BOARD OF DENTISTRY,  
Plaintiff

vs.

SARAH O'CONNOR, D.A. PERMIT #2775,  
Respondent

ADMINISTRATIVE  
COURT

*A. Adkins*

Case No: 21-69 (B)

**STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT**

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED on the following charges made against you.**

**GENERAL BACKGROUND**

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the Defendant the subject matter herein pursuant to the Oklahoma State Dental Act 59 O.S. § 328.1 et. seq and the Board of Dentistry Rules and Regulations, Title 195 et. seq.
2. **SARAH O'CONNOR, D.A. PERMIT #2775** is licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Oklahoma. **DA O'CONNOR'S** State Dental Assistant Permit was originally issued prior to 2013 and is currently in full force and effect. The actions relevant to this Statement of Complaint occurred in and around Oklahoma County, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
3. The acts and omissions, which constitute the allegations contained in this Statement of Complaint, occurred from approximately May 1, 2021 through August 11, 2021 but at all times relevant to the State Dental Act and Oklahoma State laws. The requirements of the State Dental Act and the Rules and Regulations of the Board to regulate the conduct herein were in effect for all times appropriate to the actions described in this Statement of Complaint.

**SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS**

Each of the paragraphs, as stated above, are incorporated and adopted by reference herein for each specific allegation.

1. On or about August 9, 2021, the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry received a complaint regarding a dental assistant performing hygiene exams, giving injections, perio-probing, scaling and root planning on patients in the office of MARK HANSTEIN, D.D.S. Dr. Howl assigned Dr. Gore and Dr. Carmen to the investigative panel.
2. Witnesses will testify that the **Dental Assistant Sara O'Connor** had returned to work at the office of MARK HANSTEIN, D.D.S., as a front officer person while she was on break from Hygiene school. When the licensed Hygienist (A.A.) had left in June, **DA O'CONNOR** started seeing the Hygiene Patients and treating them as a hygienist and outside the scope of her Dental Assistant Permit. Witnesses will testify that originally, DR. HANSTEIN had asked her to start the appointment, complete coronal polishing and DR. HANSTEIN would do the scaling and complete the appointment, however, that did not happen. According to witnesses, DR. HANSTEIN would do a brief exam and **DA O'CONNOR** would do hygiene procedures without a valid Hygiene license. DR. HANSTEIN disputed these allegations when asked by investigators.
3. Witnesses will testify that on one occasion, **DA O'CONNOR** had given a lidocaine shot to a patient. One witness will testify that they remember DR. HANSTEIN asking the patient if it was OK for **DA O'CONNOR** to give the patient the shot as "she (O'Connor) was in training". When interviewed, the patient (JB) stated that she remembered DR. HANSTEIN asking her and believed that **DA O'CONNOR** was in some sort of preceptorship as the patient had completed in her profession. The patient advised that there was definitely a difference from when DR. HANSTEIN gave the shot vs. the shot that the patient believed **DA O'Connor** gave. When interviewed DR. HANSTEIN and **DA O'CONNOR** advised investigators that DR. HANSTEIN never took his hands off of the instrument/syringe, but let **DA O'CONNOR** assist him with the syringe.
4. **DA O'CONNOR** was interviewed and admitted that she had completed procedures on approximately 15 patients that were required to be performed by a hygienist and outside her authority of a dental assistant. **DA O'CONNOR** admitted to doing scaling, periodontic probing, cancer screenings and using a Cavitron, but denied that it had ever been used subgingivally or below the gum lines. **DA O'CONNOR** advised that DR. HANSTEIN did not ask her to perform the procedures that she "just got ahead of herself". **DA O'CONNOR** was extremely remorseful and apologized multiple times. She advised investigators that she had been a dental assistant for approximately 13 years and she had all of her expanded functions before applying to dental hygiene school and now she realizes she has jeopardized her career.

**The above acts and omissions set forth above constitute violations of the State Dental Act.**

Count 1-10 – UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF HYGIENE BY A DENTAL ASSISTANT  
59 O.S. § 328.49(B)(2), specifically by completing hygiene procedures on approximately 8 or more patients between May 1, 2021 and August 11, 2021.

#### **POTENTIAL SANCTION(S)**

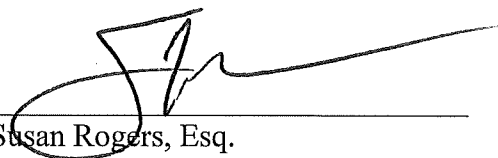
The Board is authorized, after notice or opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act, to issue an order to impose sanction(s) whenever the Board finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a licensee has violated the State Laws or Rules in regards to their

license. The minimum to maximum sanction in this matter ranges from no action to revocation of license and an administrative fine of up to \$1500 per violation. We request for this matter to be set for hearing on the next Board Agenda.

### **ATTORNEY'S FEES**

The Board is authorized, after notice or opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act, to request the costs of prosecution and attorney's fees be recovered from the Respondent. The Board is requesting costs and attorney's fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Susan Rogers, Esq.  
Executive Director

Date Jan 13, 2012

Investigator  
Deputy Director Puckett

Dr. Jim Gore  
Dr. Bobby Carmen

