# IN AND BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKLAHOMA BOARD OF DENTISTRY JAN 2 8 2022 STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel., THE OKLAHOMA BOARD OF DENTISTRY, Plaintiff vs. Case No: 21-69 (B) SARAH O'CONNOR, D.A. PERMIT #2775, Respondent

# AGREED ORDER ACCEPTING VOLUNTARY SUBMITTAL TO JURISDICTION

This cause comes on for hearing before the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry (the "Board") on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January at the State Board of Dentistry meeting, located 2920 N. Lincoln Blvd. Suite B, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, pursuant to notice given as required by law and rules of the Board.

Plaintiff, the State of Oklahoma, ex rel. the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry by and through its Executive Director and attorney, Susan Rogers and the Respondent, Sarah O'Connor Oklahoma Dental Assistant Permit #2775, represented by her attorney, Kyle Sweet, and does not appear before the Board.

Sarah O'Connor, D.A. permit #2775 is permitted to practice dental assisting with all expanded functions in the State of Oklahoma. The actions relevant to the Statement of Complaint occurred in and around Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

The Board en banc after hearing arguments of counsel, reviewing the exhibits admitted and the sworn testimony of witnesses, and being fully advised in the premises, found that there is clear and convincing evidence to support the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

## AGREEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY RESPONDENT

By voluntarily submitting to jurisdiction and entering into this Order, Respondent admits to the allegations in the Complaint and citation filed herein and acknowledges that a hearing before the Board would result in some sanction under the Oklahoma State Dental Practices Act.

Respondent, Sarah O'Connor, D.A. permit #2775 states that she is of sound mind and is not under the influence of, or impaired by, any medication or drug and that she fully recognizes her

right to appear before the Board for evidentiary hearing on the allegations made against her. Respondent hereby voluntarily waives her right to a full hearing, submits to the jurisdiction of the Board and agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of this Order. Respondent acknowledges that she has read and understands the terms and conditions stated herein.

Respondent and Attorneys for the Board stipulate to the following findings of fact; The Board has heard statements of counsel, reviewed the exhibits presented, and being fully apprised in the premises, finds that there is clear and convincing evidence of the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Orders:

### STIPULATIONS AND AGREED FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Sarah O'Connor, D.A. permit #2775 currently possesses Oklahoma Dental Assistant Permit #2775, including 4 expanded functions issued prior to 2013.
- 2. Respondent Sarah O'Connor, D.A. is the subject of a complaint, Case No. 21-69.
- 3. The Board pursuant to the Oklahoma State Dental Practices Act 59 O.S.§ 328.1 et. seq is a duly authorized State Agency empowered to license and oversee the activities of all persons practicing dentistry or hygiene pursuant to the act in the State of Oklahoma.
- 4. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter herein, and notice has been given in all respects as required by law and the rules of the Board.
- 5. Sarah O'Connor, D.A., has never been before this Board on a complaint.
- 6. The Respondent acknowledges that this agreement is freely and voluntarily made, and the Respondent has not been subject to duress or coercion.
- 7. The Respondent has been apprised of her right to seek counsel on this matter and is fully aware of the consequences of this agreement.
- 8. The Respondent submits herself to the jurisdiction of the Board and, waives all rights to a hearing appeal and any other claim in a court having jurisdiction over any part of this matter.
- 9. The Respondent admits to the allegations in the statement of complaint.
- 10. The Respondent admits that during the time periods stated in the complaint, she was acting in violation of State and Federal law.
- 11. Dr. Gore and Dr. Carmen were assigned to the investigative panel for this matter.

The above acts and omissions set forth above constitutes violations of the State Dental Act including violations of State and Federal laws.

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.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent 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.

Based on the foregoing facts and admissions, the Board finds that Respondent committed violations of

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.

The Board en banc, hereby adopts the agreement of the parties in this Voluntary Submittal to Jurisdiction.

### AGREED ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry as follows:

- 1. The dental license of Respondent, Sarah O'Connor, D.A., Oklahoma Dental Assisting Permit #2775, is hereby placed on PROBATION for 1 year beginning January 28th, 2022 and ending January 27, 2023, under the following terms and conditions:
- 2. Pursuant to this agreed order, the Respondent Sarah O'Connor, D.A., is fined, \$500.00 per count of the ten counts stated above. The Board has elected to suspend fines for five counts under the following conditions; Respondent shall pay an administrative fine of \$2,500.00, to be paid prior to the end of the probation. The administrative fines shall be due on or before January 26<sup>th</sup> 2023.
- 3. Within one (1) year of the date of this Voluntary Submittal to Jurisdiction, Respondent shall complete TWO (2) HOURS OF ETHICS CLASSES to be approved in advance in writing by the Board President. The Respondent may elect to substitute a successful passage of the dental jurisprudence state exam in lieu of the Two Hours. The Two hours of ETHICS shall not count towards continuing education credit.
- 4. As of July 27, 2022, six-months from the date of this Order, Respondent may petition the Board to be removed from probation and reinstated to full licensure in good

standing under the following conditions; All fines and ethics classes are successfully completed and paid in full.

- 5. Respondent will conduct her practice in compliance with all other State Laws and Regulations under the Oklahoma Dental Practices Act.
- 6. Respondent will not violate any other State or Federal law;
- 7. Respondent will furnish to each and every state in which she holds licensure or applies for licensure and hospitals, clinics or other institutions in which she holds or anticipates holding any form of staff privilege or employment a copy of the Board Order stipulating sanctions imposed by the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry.
- 8. Respondent will keep the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry informed of her current address.
- 9. Until such time as all indebtedness to the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry has been satisfied, Respondent shall reaffirm said indebtedness in any and all bankruptcy proceedings.
- 10. Respondent shall make herself available for one or more personal appearances before the Board or its designee upon request.
- 11. This Order is required by Federal law to be reported to the National Practitioners Databank.
- 12. Failure to meet any terms of the Board Order will constitute cause for the Board to initiate additional proceedings to suspend, revoke or modify Respondent's license after due notice and hearing.

The Board en banc, hereby adopts the agreement of the parties in this Voluntary Submittal to Jurisdiction.

Mike Howl, D.D.S., Board President,

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Investigator
Deputy Director Puckett

<u>Investigative Panel Members</u>
Dr. Jim Gore

Dr. Bobby Carmen

**District Member Abstention** 

Dr. Krista Jones

AGREED AND APPROVED:

Sarah O'Connor, D.A.,

Kyle Sweet, OBA #

Atterney for Sarah O'Connor

Susan Rogers, OBA # 15497

**Executive Director and General Counsel** 

Attorney for the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry

Stephen McCaleb OBA # 15649

Judicial Counsel, State Board of Dentistry

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