

IN THE MATTER OF
ADAM SLATNISKE, D.D.S.

Respondent

License Number: 16610

*
*
*
*

BEFORE THE MARYLAND
STATE BOARD OF
DENTAL EXAMINERS

Case Number: 2020-056

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

On or about November 19, 2019, the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the “Board”) summarily suspended the license of ADAM SLATNISKE, D.D.S. (the “Respondent”), License Number 16610, to practice dentistry in the State of Maryland. The Board took such action pursuant to its authority under: Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.44.07.24, determining that there was a substantial likelihood that the Respondent poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare; and Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.), concluding that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action.

On or about November 23, 2020, the Board notified the Respondent of its intent to revoke his license based on his violations the Maryland Dentistry Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.) and Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.44 *et seq.*

Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following provisions of the Act under Health Occ. § 4-315 and COMAR 10.44 *et seq.*:

Health Occ. § 4-315. Denials, reprimand, probations, suspension, and revocations— Grounds.

(a) *License to practice dentistry* – Subject to the hearing provisions of § 4-318 of this subtitle, the Board may ... reprimand any licensed dentist, place

any licensed dentist on probation, or suspend or revoke the license of any licensed dentist, if the ... licensee:

- (4) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside;
- (16) Behaves dishonorably or unprofessionally, or violates a professional code of ethics pertaining to the dentistry profession; [and]
- (20) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board[.]

COMAR 10.44.23.03 Unprofessional or Dishonorable Conduct^{1]}

- A. A dentist . . . may not engage in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.
- B. The following shall constitute unprofessional or dishonorable conduct in the practice of dentistry . . . :
 - (2) Engaging in conduct which is unbecoming a member of the dental profession;
 - (5) Committing an act of sexual misconduct as described in §C of this regulation; [and]
 - (8) Committing any other unprofessional or dishonorable act or omission in the practice of dentistry[.]
- C. Sexual misconduct of either a verbal or a physical nature shall include, but is not limited to:
 - (7) Sexual behavior that would be considered unethical or unprofessional[.]

On or about April 21, 2021, the Respondent attended a Case Resolution Conference (CRC) with the Board. Following the CRC, the Board and the Respondent

¹ Effective July 17, 2017, the regulation was recodified from COMAR 10.44.23.01 to COMAR 10.44.23.03 without substantive modifications.

agreed to enter into this Consent Order to resolve the Summary Suspension and the Charges.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following facts:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Maryland and practiced at a private practice located in Baltimore County, Maryland (the "Practice"). The Respondent was initially licensed on July 23, 2018. His license is current through June 30, 2020.

2. On or about November 5, 2019, the Board received correspondence (the "Complaint") from a detective in the Carroll County Sherriff's Department regarding the Respondent.

3. Also on November 5, 2019, the owner of the Practice, who was the Respondent's employer, contacted the Board and advised that the Respondent had been arrested earlier in the day and terminated from his employment at the Practice. Based on the Complaints, the Board began an investigation.

4. According to court documents subsequently obtained by the Board's investigator, on November 5, 2019, the Respondent was the charged in the District Court of Maryland for Carroll County with the following criminal offenses:

- (a) 2 Felony Counts from incident of 1/16/19, Promotion and Distribution of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-207(a)(4);
- (b) 1 Felony Count, from incident of 1/29/19, Promotion and Distribution of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-207(a)(4);

- (c) 1 Felony Count from incident of 2/11/19, Promotion and Distribution of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-207(a)(4);
- (d) 1 Felony Count from incident of 2/16/19, Promotion and Distribution of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-207(a)(4);
- (e) 2 Misdemeanor Counts from incident of 1/16/19, Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-208;
- (f) 1 Misdemeanor Count from incident of 1/29/19, Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-208;
- (g) 1 Misdemeanor Count from incident of 2/11/19, Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-208; and
- (h) 1 Misdemeanor Count from incident of 2/19/19, Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code. Ann., Crim. Law § 11-208.

5. According to police records obtained in furtherance of the investigation, the Respondent was using an online social network platform to view and share pornographic images and videos of minor children.

6. The social network reported the Respondent's suspected conduct to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which forwarded the report to the Carroll County Sherriff's Department. Although the Respondent used a pseudonym on the social network, the Respondent was identified by several specific pieces of identifying information including the IP address of his home network, his phone number, and his email address.

7. Based on the report, the Carroll County Sherriff's Department obtained a warrant for the content on the social network account of the Respondent. The content obtained included numerous images and videos of child pornography as well as messages sent by the Respondent seeking to obtain and share such material from and with other users.

8. According to police records, among the numerous inappropriate files were videos in which naked female children with no pubic hair and undeveloped breasts are made to perform sexual acts on camera, including the following:

- (a) A naked female child masturbates with a hairbrush;
- (b) A naked female child digitally penetrates her vagina;
- (c) A female child in a school uniform undresses and turns away from the camera. The child bends forward at the waist exposing her vagina and anus to the camera. The child then sits in a chair and spread her legs apart, exposing her vagina;
- (d) A female child who removes her clothing. The child turns around and bends forward, exposing her anus and vagina. Later, the child also rubs her vagina with her hand; and
- (e) A female undresses herself. The child touches her vagina numerous times and spreads her buttocks apart to expose her anus.

9. On or about November 4, 2019, the Carroll County Sheriff's Department executed a search warrant at the Respondent's residence. During the raid, several electronic items were seized and the Respondent was interviewed, after having waived his Miranda rights, according to the report.

10. In his interview that day, the Respondent acknowledged that he had accessed child pornography online.

11. On or about June 15, 2020, the Respondent pleaded guilty to one felony count of Promotion and Distribution of Child Pornography, in violation of Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 11-207(a)(4).

12. On or about September 23, 2020, the Respondent was sentenced to five (5) years incarceration, with all but one (1) suspended, plus five (5) years supervised probation and registration as a Tier II sex offender.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes violations of the Act as cited above.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is by the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the license to practice dentistry, license number 16610, is hereby **REVOKED**, and that the Respondent may apply for reinstatement after three (3) years; and it is further

ORDERED that this document constitutes an Order of the Board and is therefore a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., General Provisions, §§ 4-101 through 4-601 (Repl. Vol. 2014 & 2020 Supp.).

4/28/2021
Date

Francis X. McLaughlin, Jr.
Francis X. McLaughlin, Jr., Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

CONSENT

By this Consent, I, Adam Slatniske, D.D.S., agree and accept to be bound by this Consent Order and its conditions and restrictions. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Order, and understand its effect.

4/27/2021
Date

Adam Slatniske
Adam Slatniske, D.D.S.
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
CITY/COUNTY OF: Frederick

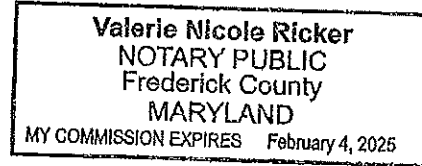
I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 27th day of April,

2021, before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared² Adam Slatniske, D.D.S., and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.

Notary Public *Valerie Ricker*

My commission expires: 2/4/2025



² During the current State of Emergency, and in compliance with the Governor's emergency orders, notarization may be accomplished remotely.