

IN THE MATTER OF
ASHAUNTE TRENT, D.R.T.
RESPONDENT

* BEFORE THE MARYLAND
* STATE BOARD OF
* DENTAL EXAMINERS

Certificate Number: 12700

* Case Number: 2019-009

* * * * *

FINAL ORDER

On or about May 14, 2020, The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the "Board") notified **ASHAUNTE TRENT, D.R.T.** (the "Respondent"), dental radiation technologist (D.R.T.) certificate number 12700, of its intent to revoke her certificate based on her violations of the Maryland Dentistry Act (the "Act"), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health Occ.") §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.); and the regulations adopted by the Board, found at COMAR 10.44.01 *et seq.*

The pertinent provisions of law are as follows:

Health Occ. § 4-505. Certification of dental radiation technologists

- (a) "Dental radiation technologists" and "practice dental radiation technology" defined; rules and regulations; competency requirements. -- The Board of Dental Examiners shall:
 - (2) Adopt rules and regulations concerning qualifications, training, certification, monitoring of, and enforcement requirements for a dental radiation technologist[.]
- (d) Certification required for practice. -- After July 1, 1988, an individual may not practice dental radiation technology unless certified by the Board.

COMAR 10.44.19.02 Certification Required.

An individual shall be currently certified by the Board as a dental radiation technologist before the individual may practice dental radiation technology on a human being in this State.

COMAR 10.44.19.05 Term and Renewal of Certification.

F. Certification After April 1.

- (1) A certificate holder who has failed to renew a certificate to practice dental radiation technology in this State by April 1 of the year in which the certificate is due for renewal is prohibited from practicing dental radiation technology in this State after the expiration date of the certificate.
- (3) The Board may take action against a dental radiation technologist for unprofessional conduct if the Board determines that the dental radiation technologist has practiced dental radiation technology in this State after the dental radiation technologist's certificate has expired. The Board may impose an administrative penalty through a nonpublic consent agreement in which the dental radiation technologist agrees to:
 - (a) Make an anonymous donation of \$100 to a charitable institution; and
 - (b) Perform:
 - (i) 10 hours of Board-approved pro bono community service; or
 - (ii) 10 hours of Board-approved pro bono dental services which the applicant may lawfully perform.

G. Notwithstanding the provisions of §E of this regulation, the Board may charge the dental radiation technologist with unprofessional conduct as provided in Regulation .12 of this chapter.

COMAR 10.44.19.08 Prohibitions.

A. An individual may not practice dental radiation technology on a human being in this State unless the individual is certified by the Board as a dental radiation technologist.

COMAR 10.44.19.12 Penalties for Violations of These Regulations.

A. Subject to the hearing provisions of this chapter, the Board may deny a certificate to practice dental radiation technology, reprimand any certified

dental radiation technologist, place any certified dental radiation technologist on probation, or suspend or revoke the certificate of any certified dental radiation technologist, if the holder of the certificate:

- (6) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board;
- (15) Behaves dishonorably or unprofessionally.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following facts.

1. On or about March 21, 2005, the Respondent was initially certified to practice dental radiation technology in Maryland, under certificate number 12700.
2. On or about March 1, 2018, the Respondent's certificate expired.
3. On or about June 18, 2018, the Board received an Application for Reinstatement of Expired Dental Radiation Technologist Certificate from the Respondent.
4. Attached to the Reinstatement Application, the Respondent submitted a notarized statement in which she admitted that after March 1, 2018, when her certificate expired, she had continued to practice dental radiation technology without a valid certificate. She stated, the "last date Ashaunte Trent took x-rays was March 30, 2018."
 1. On or about July 5, 2018, the Board reinstated the Respondent's certificate. Her current certificate is set to expire on or about March 1, 2020.
 2. On August 3, 2018, the Board notified the Respondent, via certified mail and regular mail to the address she is required to maintain with the Board, that it is unlawful to practice dental radiation technology in Maryland without a valid certificate. In lieu of charging the Respondent with violations of the Board's regulations, the Board

offered her the opportunity to enter into a non-public consent agreement (the “Agreement”) to resolve the issue of her unauthorized practice.

3. The key terms of the proposed Agreement were: (1) performing ten (10) hours of *pro bono* service at a Board-approved site and (2) making a \$100 charitable donation to a Board-designated charitable organization. The Board’s offer indicated that in order to accept the offer, the Respondent must have responded by August 20, 2018. The Respondent failed to respond.

4. On November 1, 2018, the Board sent the Respondent a second notice, once again offering her the opportunity to sign the proposed Agreement in lieu of formal discipline. The second notice indicated that in order to accept the offer, the Respondent must have responded by November 19, 2018. The Respondent failed to timely respond.

5. However, on or about November 28, 2018, the Board received the Respondent’s signed and notarized Agreement.

6. On or about December 12, 2018, the Board executed the Agreement. The Agreement required the Respondent to complete the ten *pro bono* service hours and make the \$100 charitable donation by May 20, 2019 and submit proof to the Board of having completed both requirements by May 30, 2019.

7. In the following months, Board staff informed the Respondent of several opportunities to complete her required *pro bono* service and requested updates regarding her progress.

8. However, the Respondent failed to complete any of the obligations under the Agreement by the deadlines.

9. On July 31, 2019, the Board's staff sent the Respondent formal notice that she had not completed the requirements of the Agreement, and requesting that she immediately do so.

10. On or about August 29, 2019, the Board's staff sent the Respondent a notice that a committee of the Board had extended the deadline for completion of the Agreement's pro bono service hours until September 30, 2019. The Respondent failed to respond.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent's unauthorized practice of dental radiation technology and her failure to complete the requirements of the Agreement, as described above, constitute violations of the Act and the regulations adopted by the Board as cited above.

ORDER

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

ORDERED that the Respondent's certificate to practice dental radiation technology in Maryland, certificate number 12700, is hereby **REVOKED**; 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 & 2019 Supp.).

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

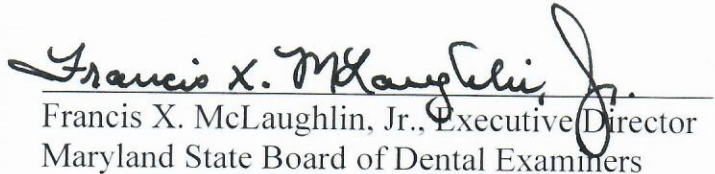
Pursuant to Health Occ. § 4-319, the Respondent has the right to take a direct judicial appeal. Any appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Final Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-222 (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.); and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

If the Respondent files an appeal, the Board is a party and should be served with the court's process at the following address:

Francis X. McLaughlin, Jr., Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER
Benjamin Rush Building
55 Wade Ave/Tulip Dr.
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

At that point, the Administrative Prosecutor is no longer a party to this case and need not be served or copied.

July 10, 2020
Date


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