

IN THE MATTER OF
JOYCE THOMAS, D.M.D.

Respondent

License Number: 13289

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* BEFORE THE MARYLAND
* STATE BOARD OF
* DENTAL EXAMINERS
* Case Number: 2019-048
* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On or about October 17, 2018, the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the "Board") charged **JOYCE THOMAS, D.M.D.** (the "Respondent"), License Number 13289, under the Maryland Dentistry Act, codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health Occ.") §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.) (the "Act") and the regulations adopted by the Board at Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR") 10.44.01 *et seq.* On December 19, 2018 and January 16, 2019, the Board held evidentiary hearings on this matter. The Board issued a Final Decision and Order on November 22, 2019. Dr. Thomas, in turn, timely noted her appeal of the Board's Final Decision and Order.

After extensive discussion and deliberation, the parties hereby agreed to a modified sanction to fully and finally settle this matter. The sanction is set forth below.

ORDER

With the consent of the Respondent, it is now hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent is hereby **REPRIMANDED**, and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **TWO (2) YEARS**, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. A Board-assigned inspector shall conduct an unannounced inspection at both Maple Lawn and Loch Ridge within ten (10) business days of the date of this Consent Order to evaluate the Respondent and the staff regarding compliance with the Act and infection control guidelines. The Board-

assigned inspector shall be provided with copies of the Board's file, the Consent Order, and any other documentation deemed relevant by the Board.

2. The Respondent shall provide to the Board-assigned inspector a schedule of the regular weekly office hours of both Maple Lawn and Loch Ridge and promptly apprise the inspector of any changes.
3. During the probationary period, both Maple Lawn and Loch Ridge shall be subject to quarterly unannounced onsite inspections by a Board-assigned inspector.
4. The Board-assigned inspector shall provide inspection reports to the Board within ten (10) business days of the date of each inspection and may consult the Board regarding the findings of the inspections.
5. The Respondent shall, at all times, practice dentistry in accordance with the Act, related regulations, and shall comply with CDC and OSHA guidelines on infection control for dental healthcare settings.
6. On or before the fifth day of each month, the Respondent shall provide to the Board a copy of the current patient appointment book for that month for both Maple Lawn and Loch Ridge.
7. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of **FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5000)** by bank certified check or money order made payable to the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners.
8. Within three (3) months of the date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall successfully complete a Board-approved in-person four (4) credit hour course(s) in infection control protocols, which may not be applied toward her license renewal.
9. Within three (3) months of the date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall successfully complete a Board-approved in-person two (2) credit hour course(s) in professional ethics, which may not be applied toward her license renewal.
10. If the above-mentioned courses are not completed within three (3) months of the date of the Consent Order, there shall be an automatic extension of three (3) additional months if the Respondent demonstrates to the Board's satisfaction that she was unable to complete the courses despite a good-faith effort.
11. Respondent does not physically practice at either of the locations cited and did not treat patients at either location at the time of the complaints which

formed the basis for this action. As such, Respondent's probation shall be lifted as of May 29, 2020.

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Respondent, through Dental Professionals of Maryland, Gerald Awadzi, PC, shall coordinate with practice administrators to implement practice-wide policies and training to ensure that all dentists practicing at locations owned by Dental Professionals of Maryland, Gerald Awadzi, PC, shall be able to comply with CDC Guidelines, including but not limited to their ability to access and update, when applicable, policies, procedures, manuals, training logs, manifests and maintenance logs relating to CDC compliance. The Respondent shall provide verification of the implementation of such policies and training to the Board via semiannual reports during probation.

ORDERED that if the Board has reason to believe that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition of probation or this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be an evidentiary hearing before the Board. If there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Respondent shall be given a show cause hearing before the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that after the appropriate hearing, if the Board determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition of probation or this Consent Order, the Board may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Respondent's license to practice dentistry in Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine upon the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall at all times cooperate with the Board, any of its agents or employees, and with the Board-assigned inspector, in the monitoring, supervision and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order


ORDERED that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014).

5/28/2020
Date


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

5/28/2020
Date

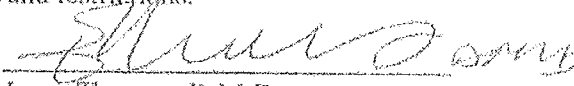

James P. Goldsmith, D.M.D., President
Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

CONSENT

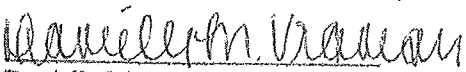
I, JOYCE THOMAS, D.M.D., acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to consult with counsel before signing this document. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal the Board's Final Order in this matter.

I sign this Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Order and understand its meaning and effect. I agree and accept to be bound by this Consent Order and its conditions and restrictions.

05.27.2020
Date


Joyce Thomas, D.M.D.
Respondent

Read and approved by:


Danielle M. Vranian, Esquire
Baxter, Baker, Sidle, Conn & Jones, P.A.
120 E. Baltimore Street
Suite 2100
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Counsel for Dr. Thomas