

Our mission is to ensure and protect dental health by enforcement of the Kansas Dental Laws

Kansas Dental Board

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Kansas Dental Board Unveils New Website

www.dental.ks.gov



In the Fall of 2012, the Board's staff identified an area of much needed improvement for licensees and the public. In particular, the Board's website had become quite difficult to maintain and rather antiquated. As such, the Board's staff began budgeting and working to construct a new website.

Working with the Department of Administration's Information Technology personnel and resources, the Board has a brand new online

presence. The designers of the Board's new website are responsible for assisting in the construction of many different state websites, including the official websites for the State of Kansas and Governor Brownback.

By using a web-based design platform and accessing the state's vast information technology resources, the Board is able to deliver, in a highly cost-efficient manner, a more user-friendly interface. Additionally, the Board's staff is able to

implement updates and changes to the website in a more timely manner.

Each licensee is encouraged to spend some time on the Board's new website. Many of the features from the old website have been retooled, but remain available. Other features have been phased out or combined.

As demands for different features of the website rise and fall, the Board's staff will continue to make changes. Please visit the Board at: www.dental.ks.gov.

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Dentist Formation of a P.A. or an L.L.C.

Many dentists, both new and established, have questions about the formation of a Professional Association (P.A.) or Limited Liability Company (L.L.C.) in relation to the practice of dentistry. There are a couple of steps to form a P.A. or L.L.C.

First, a licensed dentist or the dentist's legal representative must submit an Application for Certificate to the Board. The Ap-

plication for Certificate requires the following: (a) Designation of a proposed name of the P.A. or L.L.C.; (b) a true and correct copy of the proposed or existing Articles of Incorporation or Articles of Organization; (c) the names and licensing information of each member of the P.A. or L.L.C.; and (d) a \$2.00 fee.

Second, after the Board issues a Certificate approving the

proposed name of the P.A. or L.L.C., the licensed dentist or the dentist's legal representative must submit the Certificate to the Kansas Secretary of State, along with any other forms or fees that the Kansas Secretary of State may require at that time.

If assistance is required, a licensed dentist is encouraged to consult with an attorney who specializes in business formation.

Display of Disciplinary Actions on the Board's Website

As part of its duty to protect the public, the Board authorizes the posting and display of Board disciplinary actions on its website. These records are considered open public records in possession of the Board. As a result, the Board is obligated to provide disciplinary actions to the public. The disciplinary actions page on the Board's website is

one of the most frequently visited on the entire website. Insurance companies, patients, and potential employers visit the page regularly.

Each disciplinary action is the result of a voluntary settlement agreement between the Board and the licensee or a Board imposed action against a licensee. The disciplinary orders

are issued in accordance with the Kansas Dental Practices Act and the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act.

The actions will stay on the website for 10 years following successful completion of the Board order. Generally, the disciplinary actions are also reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

Donna Thomas, D.D.S., Appointed

At its regularly scheduled public meeting held in Topeka on Friday, May 3, 2013, the Board welcomed its newest dentist member, Donna Thomas, D.D.S. Appointed by Governor Brownback to succeed Richard Darnall, D.D.S., as a Member-at-Large, Dr. Thomas will serve the remainder of Dr. Darnall's unexpired term. Under the Kansas Dental Practices Act, Board members serve 4-year terms up to a maximum of two terms. Dr. Thomas looks forward to her Board term.

Production of Records to the Board

Each year, the Board receives approximately 175 to 200 complaints. Quite often, the complaints require the Board to acquire records from the dentists accused in the complaint and the subsequent treating dentists. The Board office typically requests that each dentist supply a complete copy of all dental records. The complete copy includes a copy of all documents in a patient's file, including diagnostic quality x-rays.

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**Frequently Asked Question: Is a patient entitled to a copy of his or her dental records?
Answer: Yes. A patient is entitled by state law to a copy of his or her dental records.**

Welcome New Licensees

From January 1, 2013, to date, the Board has issued 62 new dental licenses and 102 new dental hygiene licenses. Welcome new licensees.

Future Board Meetings

Friday, August 9, 2013
Friday, November 8, 2013
All meetings held in Topeka.

Kansas Dental Well-Being Program

For assistance with drug, alcohol, and other personal problems, you may contact John Childers, Heart of America Professional Network, 6405 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 502, Overland Park, Kansas 66202 or (913) 236-7575.

