

PAULA T. DOW
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07102
Attorney for Board of Dentistry

RECEIVED AND FILED
WITH THE
N.J. BOARD OF DENTISTRY
ON 4-21-10 DA

By: Nancy Costello Miller
Deputy Attorney General
Telephone (973) 648-4735

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

CHRISTINE COPPOLA, R.D.H.

License # 22HI 00810100

TO PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**CONSENT ORDER IMPOSING
RESTRICTIONS ON LICENSE
TO PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENE**

The State Board of Dentistry received information that Christine Coppola ("Ms. Coppola" or "respondent"), was arrested on May 18, 2009, in Runnymede Boro, County of Camden, New Jersey, and charged with forgery by issuing prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances. Ms. Coppola has applied for entry into the Pre-Trial Intervention Program. She enrolled in the Professional Assistance Program (PAP) in June 2009. The

PAP has advised the Board that Ms. Coppola is fit to practice provided she comply with the PAP's recommendations.

The Board has considered this information and has determined that Ms. Coppola's continued, unrestricted practice as a registered dental hygienist is not appropriate at this time. The Board has considered and has accepted the recommendation of the PAP. To help ensure that respondent continues in recovery and that her continued practice is consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare, the Board will permit her to practice provided she is in full compliance with this consent order. That includes demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Board that she is actively participating in a drug treatment program, is undergoing continued counseling, attending AA/NA meetings, and submitting to urine screens as directed by the PAP with results being negative for psychoactive substances. In addition, she must notify her employer of the restrictions on her license and her employer must agree to notify the Board of any indication that respondent is impaired or otherwise unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety. Any deviation from the terms of this consent order, however, will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension or revocation of respondent's license to practice. Ms. Coppola may apply for relief from the provisions of this consent order not sooner than one year following its entry.

THEREFORE, IT IS ON THIS 4th DAY OF April, 2010,

AGREED AND ORDERED THAT:

1. Christine Coppola, R.D.H., may practice dental hygiene in this State only under the terms of this consent order.

2. Respondent's license is suspended for a period of two years, which suspension shall be stayed and served as a period of probation. Should respondent violate the terms of this consent order during the period of probation, the stayed suspension shall become active and shall be in addition to any sanction imposed by the Board based on the conduct underlying the subsequent violation.

3. Respondent shall notify her employers/supervisors of the entry of this order. Respondent shall cause her employers/supervisors to indicate receipt and the employers/supervisors' agreement to its terms by signing a copy and returning it to the Board. Each employer/supervisor agrees to report immediately by telephone (973) 504 - 6405 and in writing within 72 hours, to the Board any conduct or information that indicates respondent has relapsed or engaged in the use of alcohol or other psycho-active substances, or that indicates respondent is not able to practice hygiene with reasonable skill and safety.

4. Respondent shall abstain from the use of alcohol and controlled dangerous substances and shall not possess any controlled dangerous substances except pursuant to a bona fide prescription written by a physician or dentist for good medical or dental cause in her own treatment. In addition, respondent shall advise any and all treating physicians and/or dentists of her history of substance abuse. Respondent shall cause any physician or dentist who prescribes medication which is a controlled dangerous substance to provide a written report to the Board together with patient records indicating the need for such medication. Such report shall be provided to the Board no later than two (2) days

subsequent to the prescription in order to avoid confusion which may be caused by a confirmed positive urine test as a result of such medication.

5. Pending further order of the Board, respondent shall remain enrolled in the Professional Assistance Program and comply with the recommendations for treatment. Respondent, at a minimum, shall have face-to-face contact with representatives from that program as directed by the PAP, shall attend support groups, including NA or AA as directed by the PAP, and shall submit to urine monitoring as set forth in paragraph 6 below. Respondent shall provide evidence of attendance at NA/AA groups directly to the Board. If respondent discontinues participation with the PAP or attendance at any support group without obtaining approval of the Board and the PAP, she shall be deemed in violation of this Order.

6. (a) Until further order of the Board, respondent shall submit to random urine sampling a minimum of twice a week at a laboratory facility as directed by the PAP. The urine testing requirement shall continue until further order of the Board expressly reducing or discontinuing testing. Respondent shall be provided with specific directions for the protocol of the testing procedure and the location of the laboratory facility by the PAP. The urine monitoring shall be conducted with direct witnessing of the taking of the samples as designed by the laboratory facility. The initial urine screen shall utilize appropriate screening techniques and all confirming tests and/or secondary tests will be performed by gas/chromatography/mass spectrometry (G.C./M.S.). The testing procedure shall include a forensic chain of custody protocol to ensure sample integrity and to provide documentation in the event of a legal challenge.

(b) All test results shall be provided to Jonathan Eisenmenger, Executive Director of the Board, or his designee in the event he is unavailable. The Board also will retain sole discretion to modify the manner of testing in the event technical developments or individual requirements indicate that a different methodology or approach is required in order to guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the testing.

(c) Any failure by respondent to submit or provide a urine sample within twenty-four (24) hours of a request will be deemed to be equivalent to a confirmed positive urine test. In the event respondent is unable to appear for a scheduled urine test or provide a urine sample due to illness or other impossibility, consent to waive that day's test must be secured from the PAP. Personnel at the lab facility shall not be authorized to waive a urine test. In addition, respondent must provide the Board with written substantiation of her inability to appear for a test within two (2) days, e.g., a physician's report attesting that she was so ill that she was unable to provide the urine sample or appear for the test. "Impossibility" as used in this provision shall mean an obstacle beyond the control of respondent that is so insurmountable or that makes appearance for the test or provision of the urine sample so infeasible that a reasonable person would not withhold consent to waive the test on that day.

(d.) In the event respondent will be out of the State for any reason, the PAP shall be so advised so that arrangements may be made at the PAP's discretion for alternate testing.

(e.) Any urine test result showing creatinine levels below 20 mg/dL and a specific gravity below 1.003 shall be deemed a confirmed positive urine test.

(f.) Respondent shall familiarize herself with all foods, food additives or other products (such as poppy seeds) which may affect the validity of urine screens, be presumed to possess that knowledge, and shall refrain from the use of such substances. Ingestion of such substances shall not be an acceptable reason for a positive urine screen and/or failure to comply with the urine monitoring program.

(g.) The Board may, in its sole discretion, modify the frequency of testing or method of testing during the monitoring period.

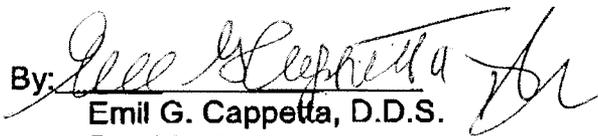
7. Respondent shall provide any and all releases to any and all parties who are participating in a monitoring, treatment, or other program as outlined in this order, as may be required in order that all reports, records, and other pertinent information may be provided to the Board in a timely manner. The PAP and any other party providing treatment or counseling shall provide quarterly reports to the Board on respondent's participation and progress. For purposes of this consent order, the first report shall be due April 1, 2010. Any information received by the Board regarding respondent's treatment or participation in a monitoring program may be used in connection with any proceedings pertaining to her license.

8. (a) Respondent shall be subject to an order of automatic suspension of her license upon the Board's receipt of any information which the Board, in its sole discretion, deems reliable demonstrating that respondent has failed to comply with any of the conditions set forth in this consent order, including but not limited to report of a confirmed positive urine, or a prima facie showing of use of alcohol or drugs.

(b) Respondent shall have a right to apply for removal of the automatic suspension on ten (10) days notice to the Board and to the Attorney General. The Board may hold a hearing on that application before the full Board or before a committee of the Board. In the event a committee hears the application, its action shall be effective immediately and subject to ratification of the full Board at its next scheduled meeting. In a hearing seeking removal of the automatic suspension, any confirmed positive urine shall be presumed valid.

9. Nothing in this order shall be deemed to preclude the Board from taking any further action it deems appropriate based on respondent's conduct, including but not limited to the conduct underlying the criminal charges referred to in this Consent Order, should the Board's review of information cause it to determine that such action is warranted.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

By: 
Emil G. Cappetta, D.D.S.
President

I have read and I understand the terms of this order and agree to be bound by it. I consent to the entry of this Order.


Christine Coppola, R.D.H.

4-12-10
Date

I consent to the form and entry of this order

_____, Esq.

I have read the terms of this order and agree on behalf of the Professional Assistance Program to comply with its terms as pertaining to the PAP.

L E Baxter Sr

Louis E. Baxter, Sr., M.D.
Executive Medical Director
Professional Assistance Program

4/8/10
Date

Christine Coppola is providing dental hygiene services under my direct supervision. I have read the terms of this consent order and agree to the terms relating to employers/supervisors.

(Sign and print name)

Date

not currently working