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

IN THE MATTER OF)
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) Administrative Action
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) **JOSEPH HANNAH, D.M.D.**) ORDER REMOVING
) **License No. 22DI 01468200**) RESTRICTIONS ON LICENSE
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)
) LICENSED TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY)
) IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry upon the application of Joseph Hannah, D.M.D. ("Dr. Hannah" or "respondent"), seeking to remove the restrictions imposed by the Consent Order entered on November 12, 2008. The Board initially suspended Dr. Hannah's license in June 1996 (five year suspension, nine months of which was served as an active suspension), based on his conduct in touching the breasts of nine female patients without medical or dental cause. Upon his reinstatement in 1997, the Board placed restrictions on Dr. Hannah's license, including a limitation on treating minor patients and requiring a monitor to be present in the operatory while he treated female patients. The Board modified its prior orders in 2001, 2006, and in 2008. The limited restrictions in the 2008 consent order reflected the Board's determination that although respondent had submitted information from mental health professionals that he could practice dentistry consistent with the public, health, safety, and welfare, it nonetheless found that respondent would continue to benefit from - and the public would be protected by - the presence of a monitor in the practice while

respondent treated minors and female patients.

Dr. Hannah appeared with Matt Mandel, Esq., on January 19, 2011. In seeking relief, he noted that the conduct for which he was initially disciplined occurred more than 14 years ago, and that mental health professionals had determined that he had gained insight into his behavior and that he no longer needed therapy. He stated that the conditions that caused the aberrant behavior at that time have been resolved, that he has gained understanding of his actions, feels remorse for his conduct, and that he has the support of family and colleagues. Dr. Hannah currently practices in two locations and works with a dental assistant at all times he is treating patients. In connection with his application, the Board has also considered Dr. Hannah's letter of September 29, 2009, as well as the August 3, 2009, letter from Steven Kwitnicki, D.D.S., a dentist with whom he is in practice in Summit, New Jersey, and the June 23, 2009, letter from Mark Coleman, D.M.D., both of whom support Dr. Hannah's application.

The Board, having considered all the material submitted and respondent's testimony, is persuaded that he has demonstrated that he may safely practice without restrictions. Respondent has practiced for more than 14 years without incident. Both independent and treating psychologists have reported that Dr. Hannah has gained sufficient insight into his behavior so that he is unlikely to repeat the inappropriate conduct, and the dentists who were monitoring Dr. Hannah's practice have reported no conduct that would be of concern to the Board. Therefore, based on its review of the entire record, the Board will remove restrictions on respondent's license finding it is appropriate and consistent with the public health, safety and welfare. The Board notes,

however, that it will not tolerate any conduct that violates the law or regulations governing the practice of dentistry. Any future impropriety or violation of the law or regulations will result in Board action.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ON THIS 14th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2011

ORDERED:

1. Dr. Hannah's license to practice dentistry in the State of New Jersey is fully reinstated without encumbrance or restriction.

2. Dr. Hannah shall obey all statutes and regulations governing the practice of dentistry and comply with all standards of care applicable to dentists licensed in this State.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

By: Herbert B. Dolinsky, D.D.S.
Herbert Dolinsky, D.D.S.
Acting President