

**STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

IN RE:

LURA PRATSON

Applicant No.

014.0123559

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Docket No. 2016-486

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

NOW COMES the State of Vermont, by and through its State Prosecuting Attorney S. Lauren Hibbert and Respondent, Lura Pratson:

Board Authority

1. The Vermont Board of Dental Examiners ("Board") has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of unprofessional conduct committed by dentists and dental surgeons and applicants for licensure pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§129, 129a and 814; 26 V.S.A. §§767 and 809; the Administrative Rules of the Board of Dental Examiners ("RBDE"); and the Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation.

Alleged Facts

2. Respondent, Lura Pratson, of Woodstock, VT is not currently, and was not previously, licensed in the State of Vermont. Respondent applied for registration as a traditional dental assistant on August 17, 2016.
3. In her registration application, the Respondent answered affirmatively to the following mandatory credential and fitness question:

Have you EVER been arrested, taken into custody, held for investigation or questioning, cited into court, charged by any law enforcement authority, completed a diversion program, had a criminal case dismissed, or been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation?

4. Respondent revealed that she had previous felony and misdemeanor convictions.
5. On May 22, 2012, in the State of New Hampshire, Grafton Superior Court, Respondent plead guilty to four counts of Acts Prohibited – Sale of Heroin (RSA 318-B:2).
6. On January 17, 2013, in the State of Vermont, Windsor Criminal Division, Respondent plead guilty to two counts of Heroin- Possession of less than 200 mg (18 V.S.A. § 4233(a)) These are misdemeanors.

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Prosecuting Attorney
Office of
Professional Regulation
89 Main Street
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Violation 1: 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(10) Conviction of a crime related to the practice of the profession or conviction of a felony, whether or not related to the practice of the profession.

7. The State re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 2 through 6 above.
8. Respondent's convictions on May 22, 2012 are felony convictions and therefore are per se unprofessional conduct.
9. Respondent's January 17, 2013 conviction is related to the practice of the profession of dentistry because the profession requires that licenses or registrants are fit to practice which includes, but is not limited to, not addicted to illicit drugs.
10. Respondent has successfully completed long term residential treatment and is currently supervised by Parole.
11. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for discipline because the Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(10).

Understandings

12. Respondent acknowledges that the facts above are true and that the conditions set out in the Consent Order below are appropriate and necessary to protect the public.
13. Respondent understands that the Board must review and accept the terms of the Consent Order. If the Board rejects any portion, the entire Stipulation and Consent Order shall be null and void.
14. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any disclosures made to the full Board during its review of this agreement have prejudiced Respondent's rights to a fair and impartial hearing if this agreement is not accepted by the Board and proceeds to a contested hearing.
15. Respondent has read and reviewed this entire document and agrees that it contains the entire agreement between the parties.
16. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time Respondent signs this Stipulation and Consent Order.
17. Respondent voluntarily enters into this agreement after the opportunity to consult with legal counsel and is not being coerced by anyone into signing this Stipulation and Consent Order.

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7. Respondent voluntarily waives Respondent's right to a contested hearing before the Board and waives any right to appeal from this Stipulation and Consent Order.
8. Respondent agrees that the Order set forth below may be entered by the Board.

ORDER

Based on the Stipulation above, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

- A. The Board of Dental Examiners hereby GRANTS Respondent registration as a traditional dental assistant.
- B. The registration shall be **REPRIMANDED**.
- C. The registration shall be **CONDITIONED FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX (6) MONTHS**. The conditions will be as follows:
 1. Issuance of Registration. Upon the commencement of these conditions, Respondent shall be issued a registration labeled "conditioned."
 2. Length of Time of Conditions Imposed. The conditions shall remain in place until Respondent has completed all conditions ordered. Respondent shall cause any and all dentists she works under to submit on a monthly basis for a **minimum of six (6) months** a letter on appropriate letterhead that she is meeting the expectations of her employment and demonstrating compliance with the rules and statutes of the profession, including conforming to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing practice. Part time hours of fewer than forty (40) hours every two (2) weeks shall be credited on a prorated basis.
 3. Parole Compliance. Respondent must successfully comply with parole while under this Order. If she violates her parole conditions that will be considered a violation of this Order. Prior to the conditions on her registration being removed Respondent must provide a letter from Parole, on appropriate letterhead, stating that she is in compliance.
 4. Notification of Place of Employment/Personal Address/Telephone Number. Within ten (10) days of the date of entry of this Consent Order, Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, of Respondent's current place of employment, personal address, and telephone number. Respondent shall further notify the Board, in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours of any change in employment (including resignation or termination), personal address, or telephone number.
 5. Registration Renewal. This Order does not automatically extend the registration and Respondent must comply with the requirements for renewal.
 6. Costs. Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Consent Order.

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7. Violation of this Order. If Respondent violates this Order the Board, after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may rescind or modify this Order and impose additional appropriate disciplinary actions. If a complaint of unprofessional conduct is made against Respondent during the term of this Order, this Order shall be automatically extended until the unprofessional conduct matter is concluded.

8. Completion of Conditional License Period. Respondent must petition the Board, or its designee, to remove any and all conditions on Respondent's license. Respondent must present proof that Respondent has fully complied with the terms of this Order.

- B. Notwithstanding any provision above, the Respondent must continue to meet all Board requirements for maintaining a license or registration, renewal and reinstatement.
- C. This Stipulation and Consent Order is a matter of public record and may be reported to other licensing authorities as provided in 3 V.S.A. §129(a).
- D. This Stipulation and Consent Order will remain part of Respondent's licensing file and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

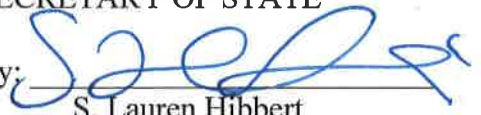
AGREED TO:

Dated:

9/14/16

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

By:



S. Lauren Hibbert
State Prosecuting Attorney

LURA PRATSON
RESPONDENT

Dated:

9/14/16

By:



Lura Pratson

STATE OF VERMONT



Prosecuting Attorney
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Professional Regulation
89 Main Street
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Montpelier, VT
05620-3402

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED:

Dated:

9/14/16

Date of Entry:

9/14/16

VERMONT BOARD OF DENTAL
EXAMINERS

By:



Chairperson