BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

IN RE: STEVEN LEWIS SAUNDERS, D.D.S.
License Number: 0401-005563
Case Number: 155976

CONSENT ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Virginia Board of Dentistry ("Board") and Steven Lewis Saunders, D.D.S., as evidenced by their signatures hereto, in lieu of proceeding to an informal conference, enter into the following Consent Order affecting Dr. Saunders license to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

NOTICE

By letter dated July 23, 2015, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Dr. Saunders notifying him that an informal conference would be held on August 28, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board at the time of the mailing.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Steven Lewis Saunders, D.D.S., was issued License Number 0401-005563 to practice dentistry on January 18, 1980, which is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2016.

2. Dr. Saunders violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2706(5), (9), and (11) and 18 VAC 60-20-170(2) and (4) of the Regulations Governing Dental Practice in that on March 8, 2002, he placed an implant to replace Patient A’s tooth #12 too closely to tooth #13, which left insufficient space for a crown to sit properly on the implant, as evidenced by an evaluation performed on Patient A by a subsequent treating dentist on August 30, 2013 and by x-rays dated March 8, 2002, October 13, 2004, April 17, 2012, and April 24, 2012. Moreover, on May 23, 2006, four (4) years after Dr. Saunders placed an implant at the site of Patient A’s tooth #12, he fabricated and seated a crown on implant #12, which fell off of the implant approximately nine (9) times between May 23, 2006 and May 16, 2012.
3. Dr. Saunders violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2706(9) and 32.1-127.1:03(E) of the Code in that, after Patient A submitted a written request for records to his office on September 27, 2012, Dr. Saunders failed to respond to her request with a copy of her dental records within fifteen (15) days. Further, although Dr. Saunders responded to Patient A’s request for records dated May 20, 2013, he failed to include all radiographs and his notes dated May 23, 2012; May 31, 2012; June 26, 2012; and September 27, 2012.

CONSENT

Steven Lewis Saunders, D.D.S., by affixing her signature to this Consent Order, agrees to the following:

1. I have been advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;

2. I am fully aware that without my consent, no legal action can be taken against me or my license except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-4000 et seq.;

3. I acknowledge that I have the following rights, among others: the right to an informal fact-finding conference before the Board; the right to representation by counsel; and the right to cross-examine witnesses against me;

4. I waive all right to an informal conference;

5. I admit to the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law contained herein and waive my right to contest such Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any sanction imposed hereunder in any future judicial or administrative proceeding in which the Board is a party;

6. I consent to the entry of the following Order affecting my right to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Dentistry hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Within six (6) months from the date of entry of this Consent Order, Steven Lewis Saunders, D.D.S., shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Board of successful completion of Board-approved continuing education course of at least seven (7) credit hours in the subject of recordkeeping and risk management. These continuing education credits shall be obtained from approved sponsors set forth in 18VAC 60-20-50.C of the Board’s Regulations Governing Dental Practice. The course shall be approved in advance of registration by the Board. Requests for approval must be received within 15 business days prior to the course date. All continuing education hours/courses shall be completed through face-to-face, interactive sessions (i.e., no home study, journal, or Internet courses). Continuing education obtained through compliance with this term shall not be used toward licensure renewal.

Dr. Saunders shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of dentistry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Any violation of the foregoing terms and conditions of this Consent Order or any statute or regulation governing the practice of dentistry shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §54.1-2708.2, the Board imposes administrative costs in the amount of $2,372.50, which shall be submitted to the Board no later than forty-five (45) days from the date of entry of this Consent Order by certified check or money order. Failure to pay this assessment by the deadline referenced above may constitute a violation of the Consent Order, which may result in the imposition of additional sanctions and will result in the matter being sent to collections.
Pursuant to Virginia Code §§2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Consent Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD

Sandra K. Reen
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Dentistry

ENTERED: August 19, 2015

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

Steven Lewis Saunders, D.D.S.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY/CITY OF Harrisonburg, TO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned Notary Public, in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, at large, this 11th day of August, 2015.

CRYSTAL DIEHL
Notary Public
Commonwealth of Virginia
Reg. # 7231212
My Commission Expires June 30, 2016

My commission expires: June 30, 2016
Registration No.: 7231212