

Demonstrated, Significant and Probable Harm Public Interest
Examples for Having Dental Licensure
A Sampling of Oklahoma Cases
All of these cases originated from a complaint filed with the Board

Dr. W. Scott Harrington Oklahoma dentist practice deemed 'menace'



by
Friday, March 29th 2013



TULSA, Okla. (AP) - The crisp, stucco exterior of an Oklahoma dental clinic concealed what health inspectors say they found inside: rusty instruments used on patients with infectious diseases and a pattern of unsanitary practices that put thousands of people at risk for hepatitis and the virus that causes AIDS.

State and local health officials planned to mail notices Friday urging 7,000 patients of Dr. W. Scott Harrington to seek medical screenings for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. Inspectors allege workers at his two clinics used dirty equipment and risked cross-contamination to the point that the state Dentistry Board branded Harrington a "menace to the public health."

"The office looked clean," said Joyce Baylor, who had a tooth pulled at Harrington's Tulsa office 1 and 1/2 years ago. In an interview, Baylor, 69, said she'll be tested next week to determine whether she contracted any infection.

"I'm sure he's not suffering financially that he can't afford instruments," Baylor said of Harrington.

Health officials opened their investigation after a patient with no known risk factors tested positive for both hepatitis C and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. After determining the "index patient" had a dental procedure about the likely time of exposure, investigators visited Harrington's office and found a number of unsafe practices, state epidemiologist Kristy Bradley said.

"I want to stress that this is not an outbreak. The investigation is still very much in its early stages," Bradley said.

Harrington voluntarily gave up his license, closed his offices in Tulsa and suburban Owasso, and is cooperating with investigators, said Kaitlin Snider, a spokeswoman for the Tulsa Health Department. He faces a hearing April 19, when his license could be permanently revoked.

"It's uncertain how long those practices have been in place," Snider said. "He's been practicing for 36 years."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is consulting on the case, and agency spokeswoman Abigail Tumpey said such situations involving dental clinics are rare. Last year a Colorado oral surgeon was accused of reusing needles and syringes, prompting letters to 8,000 patients, Tumpey said. It wasn't clear whether anyone was actually infected.

"We've only had a handful of dental facilities where we've had notifications in the last decade," Tumpey said.

The Oklahoma Dentistry Board lodged a 17-count complaint against Harrington, saying he was a "menace to the public health by reasons of practicing dentistry in an unsafe or unsanitary manner." Among the claims was one detailing the use of rusty instruments in patients known to have infectious diseases.

"The CDC has determined that rusted instruments are porous and cannot be properly sterilized," the board said.

Health officials are sending letters to 7,000 known patients but cautioned that they don't know who visited his clinics before 2007. The letters urge the patients to be tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV - viruses typically spread through intravenous drug use or unprotected sex, not occupational settings.

Harrington could not be reached for comment Thursday. A message at his Tulsa office said it was closed, and the doctor's answering service referred callers to the Tulsa Health Department. Phone numbers listed for Harrington were disconnected. A message left with Harrington's malpractice attorney in Tulsa, Jim Secrest II, was not immediately returned.

Harrington's Tulsa practice is in a tony part of town, on a row of some of the city's most upscale medical practices. The white-and-green stucco, two-story dental clinic has the doctor's name in letters on the facade.

According to the complaint, the clinic had varying cleaning procedures for its equipment, needles were re-inserted in drug vials after their initial use and the office had no written infection-protection procedure.

Harrington told officials he left questions about sterilization and drug procedures to his employees.

"They take care of that, I don't," the dentistry board quoted him as saying.

The doctor also is accused of letting his assistants perform tasks only a licensed dentist should have done, including administering IV sedation. Also, the complaint says the doctor's staff could not produce permits for the assistants when asked.

Susan Rogers, executive director of the state Dentistry Board, said that as an oral surgeon Harrington regularly did invasive procedures involving "pulling teeth, open wounds, open blood vessels." The board's complaint also noted Harrington and his staff told investigators a "high population of known infectious disease carrier patients" received dental care from him.

Despite the high-risk clientele, a device used to sterilize instruments wasn't being properly used and hadn't been tested in six years, the board complaint said. Tests are required monthly.

Also, a drug vial found at a clinic this year had an expiration date of 1993 and one assistant's drug log said morphine had been used in the clinic last year despite its not receiving any morphine shipments since 2009.

Officials said patients will be offered free medical testing at the Tulsa Health Department's North Regional Health and Wellness Center.

Dentist The Menace

Blog With A Bite

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Dr. Scott Harrington – November 2013 UPDATE: 100 Patients now test positive for Hepatitis, 4 test positive for HIV

A [class-action lawsuit](#) was filed against Oklahoma oral surgeon, Dr. W. Scott Harrington - license number 3666 (creepy) - on September 3, 2013; included were two assistants, Terri (Waugh) Velega and Lisa Young. Now, more patients have tested positive for infections.

In the class-action Terri (Waugh) Velega and Lisa Young are accused of administering IV sedation illegally. The lawsuit also accuses Hospira, Pharmaceutical Systems, and Southern Anesthesia & Surgical -- the makers, distributors, and marketers of the propofol used in Dr. Harrington's practice -- of selling multiuse vials that are "*unreasonably dangerous and unfit for use as anesthesia in an oral surgery center because of the foreseeable misuse of treating multiple patients from the multiuse propofol vials.*" [Class Action Complaint - Dr. W. Scott Harrington, filed September 2013](#)

Below are two of the latest reports:

[More patients test positive in Okla. infection scandal](#)

By [DrBicuspid Staff](#)

DrBicuspid.com
Dental information you can sink your teeth into

November 15, 2013 -- Oklahoma health officials have confirmed that 100 patients of oral surgeon W. Scott Harrington, DMD, have now tested positive for hepatitis and HIV.

The state health department said 90 patients have tested positive for hepatitis C, six for hepatitis B, and four for HIV, according to a [press release](#).

More than 4,200 people have been tested since the dental board launched its investigation in March. Health officials have notified 7,000 of Dr. Harrington's patients that they may have been exposed to blood-borne viruses at his Tulsa and Owasso offices and should be tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

The Oklahoma Board of Dentistry launched the investigation after being notified that health officials were looking into complaints about potential hepatitis C contamination at Dr. Harrington's practice. Investigators found numerous violations of health and safety laws, including the use of rusty instruments on patients known to have infectious diseases.

Two new lawsuits were filed against Dr. Harrington in November, according to a [newson6.com story](#). The most recent case was filed on behalf of a man who had 14 teeth extracted last December. A class-action [lawsuit](#) was filed in September by seven former patients, including five who claim they contracted infectious diseases during treatment at Dr. Harrington's dental clinics. Dr. Harrington is scheduled to appear before the [dental board](#) on January 17, 2014, in Oklahoma City.



NewsOn6.com

Lawsuits Piling Up Against Tulsa Dentist Accused Of Spreading Diseases

TULSA, Oklahoma -

November 13, 2013 - The lawsuits are mounting against a Green Country dentist accused of exposing thousands of patients to diseases. Two new suits were filed against Dr. Scott Harrington this month. The health department has confirmed 90 of Harrington's patients tested positive for hepatitis C, six for hepatitis B and for HIV.

Harrington's practices in Tulsa and Owasso have been locked up tight since March. The State Dentistry board said Harrington was using unsafe and unsanitary practices. He's now facing a number lawsuits by patients, who say the dirty practice left them with a potentially deadly disease.

"To think that it's happening in Tulsa, Oklahoma, it just boggles my mind," said Attorney Paul Boudreaux.

Boudreaux is representing five former patients of Dr. Scott Harrington.

9/18/2013 Related Story: Attorney Says Client Contracted Hepatitis C At Dentist Harrington's Office

The most recent case was filed on behalf of a Mannford man who went to Harrington to have 14 teeth extracted last December.

"Now his life is probably shortened, now he can look forward to significant health problems and treatment as a result of contracting hepatitis C, because he went to the dentist," Boudreaux said.

The attorney said the Tulsa Health Department told his client in April that he'd tested positive for the disease. He said the man is so ashamed by the diagnosis, he didn't want to go on camera.

"He's obviously devastated, as is his wife," Boudreaux said.

In September, the health department confirmed genetic tests by the CDC proved one of Harrington's patients transmitted hepatitis C to another patient. But a spokesperson with the state's health department told us Wednesday that only a select few of the positive results were sent to the CDC--those who met specific criteria, like having no other risk factors and matching the right time frame.

Boudreaux said his client lives a clean lifestyle.

6/18/2013 Related Story: More Lawsuits Filed Against Tulsa Dentist Scott Harrington

"He's a very healthy individual. He practices martial arts, he's a married man," he said.

Boudreaux said his client's DNA was not sent to the CDC, but he said the only place the man could have contracted the disease was in the dentist's chair.

"I certainly don't know of any indication, other than going to this dentist and having 14 teeth extracted by no telling what equipment," the attorney said.

The health department said it's unlikely any more results will be sent to the CDC.

Boudreaux said he has a team of experts examining his cases and said it's possible his clients will look into private genetic testing.

Ex-Oklahoma dentist sentenced over HIV, hepatitis scare

JULY 14, 2016 / 7:47 PM / AP

TULSA, Okla. -- A former Oklahoma oral surgeon whose filthy clinics led to thousands of patients being tested for HIV and hepatitis was sentenced Thursday to six months' house arrest for fraudulently billing Medicaid for anesthesia services that were performed by unlicensed dental assistants.

W. Scott Harrington pleaded guilty in April to money laundering and agreed to pay nearly \$30,000 in restitution under an agreement with federal prosecutors. He was also sentenced Thursday to two years' probation and ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine within a month.

Harrington's two Tulsa-area clinics were shuttered in 2013. State health officials urged about 7,000 of his current and former patients to get tested for diseases because of unsanitary conditions that included rusty equipment and reused needles.

Of the 4,202 patients tested, one had contracted a disease -- hepatitis C -- at a Harrington clinic. Investigators say it was the nation's first known transmission of hepatitis C between patients in a dental office.

Harrington surrendered his professional license in 2014 after more than 35 years in practice.

Prosecutors said in court records that Harrington behaved recklessly and chose to "place efficiency ahead of patient care" so he could quickly move from procedure to procedure.

Harrington's attorney sought probation and a fine, saying his client was a leader in his field and offered free dental services to patients who couldn't afford to pay for them.

The money laundering charge was the first criminal case brought against Harrington after his clinics were closed in March 2013. Several civil lawsuits were filed by former patients.

In the money laundering case, prosecutors alleged Harrington deposited into his account more than \$15,000 of Medicaid funds resulting from the fraudulent billing for anesthesia performed between January and June of 2012.

Prosecutors also alleged that Harrington issued a \$15,000 check from his account payable to W.S. Harrington LLC, which was another entity Harrington controlled for his personal benefit.

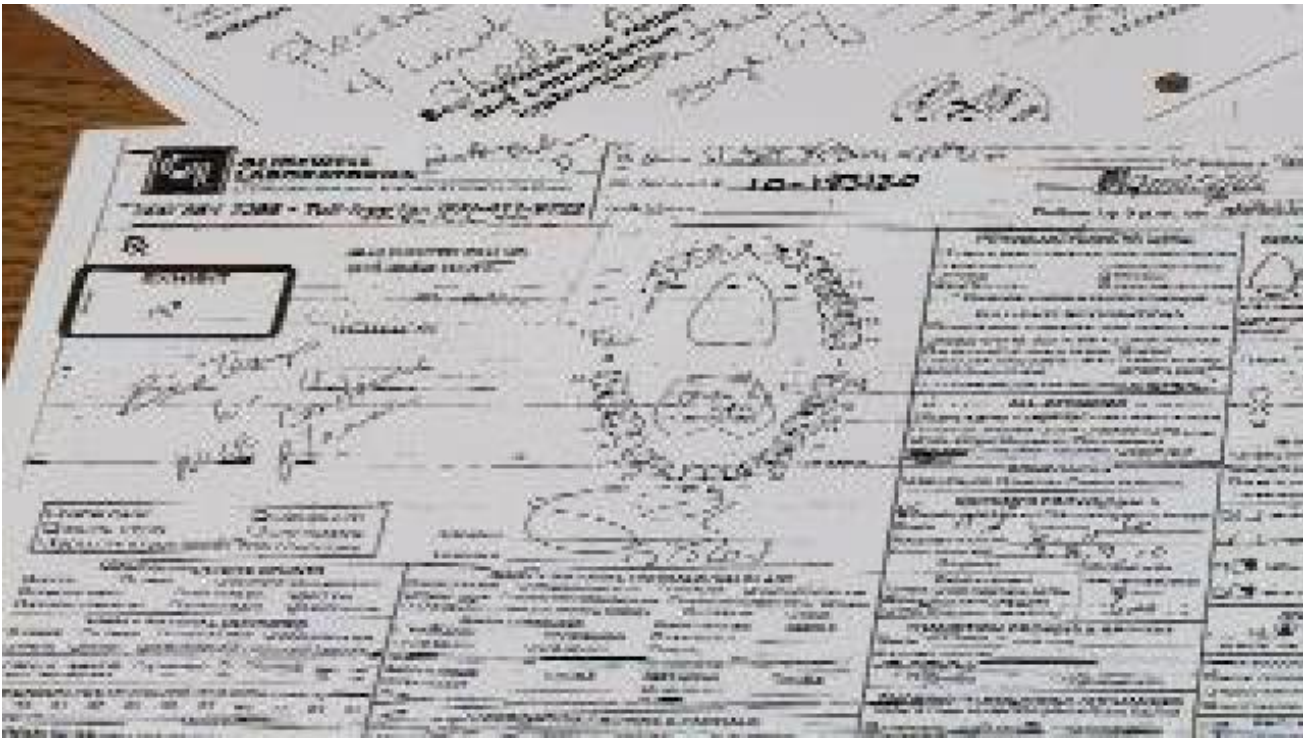
FAKE DENTISTS

Fake dentist wreaks havoc on local customers

[NEWS](#) KFOR CHANNEL 4, OKC

by: [La'Tasha Givens](#)

Posted: Sep 2, 2012 / 11:11 AM CDT / Updated: Sep 2, 2012 / 11:11 AM CDT



OKLAHOMA CITY- Authorities in Oklahoma City say they are on the hunt for a woman who claims to be a dentist, but is actually performing illegal dental procedures on dozens of unsuspecting patients.

Victims say Elizabeth Hinosa earned their trust and lured them into her office with the promise of a less expensive dental bill.

Investigators say she performed a variety of procedures and used chemicals including sedation and numbing medication with no training.

Susan Rogers, Executive Director with the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry, said, "Hinosa worked at two different offices hired as a Spanish translator and dental assistant. A few years later, she decided to treat patients herself, after hours when the real doctors went home."

Authorities have received pictures of the work Hinosa performed, including a root canal that was filled with cotton and braces falling off the patient's teeth.

That patient claimed 'Dr. Liz' told her to use chewing gum until she could cough up more cash.

Officials say Hinosa wasn't alone in the scheme; police say she had a trusted side kick in her daughter, Monica Orozco.

Rogers said, "She got her daughter hired as the receptionist and when people would call in to make an appointment, they would schedule them at a different time and tell them it's cheaper if they come after hours."

Investigators allege the pair even forwarded calls from the office to their personal cell phones.

Rogers believes there are about 100 victims; some could have communicable diseases as a result of the treatment.

She said, "We are very concerned about some of the victims. Out of all the people we interviewed, at least half of them had some sort of infection or problem related to their dental procedure that was done by her."

James Creely said some of the alleged victims will have permanent damage.

He said, "One child lost four of their front teeth. When people come in to a real dentist, they are physically hurt, they are emotionally stressed and they have dental work that's going to have to be repaired."

Police say Hinosa is already facing at least 22 counts of medical battery. As detectives moved in, they believe Hinosa disappeared and took patients' files with her.

The board is working to get volunteer dentists to fix the victims' problems at a discounted rate or for free.

Investigators believe some patients are afraid to come forward because they are concerned about their legal status.

However, officials say their goal is just to find Hinosa.

Anyone with information on her whereabouts is asked to call the authorities.

Authorities Warn Of Fake Dentist Botching Dental Work In OKC

Saturday, September 1st 2012, 11:15 pm

By: News 9

Investigators are warning people to watch out for a woman in the Oklahoma City area who's posing as a dentist and performing dental work without any training.

Susan Rogers, Executive Director of Oklahoma's Board of Dentistry, put out the warning and said dozens could have been exposed to diseases.

The suspect, Elizabeth Hinosa, allegedly worked with her daughter Monica Orozco in the scam. Rogers says would set up shop at legitimate dental offices in the metro as translators for Spanish-speaking clients, then trick those patients into coming back for appointments after normal operating hours.

That was when Hinosa, known as "Dr. Liz" would perform dental procedures for which she had no training, botching them and endangering patients.

She's never had any training. Not an unlicensed person, a fake dentist," said Rogers. "She was stealing the dentists' equipment and using needles on people with no training to do so."

9/1/2012 Related Story: Oklahoma Board Alleges Woman Practiced Dentistry Without License

That lack of training put dozens of patients in dangerous situations. Many were unaware Hinosa was faking her way through procedures. The victims, both kids and adults, told investigators horror stories about "Dr. Liz's" work; from stuffing root canals with cotton to holding braces in place with chewing gum.

"Root canals, braces on kids and adults, grinding down teeth, pulling teeth, making bridges; pretty much everything that a dental office does with no training," Rogers said.

"I had a couple of victims that have told me they nearly passed out. We also have reason to believe that there is [sic] possibly some communicable diseases out there. We don't know what kind of sanitation procedures she was using [because] she didn't know what she was doing."

Investigators say Hinosa has been posing as a dentist for at least five years at legitimate offices and her own fake office. Until now, she has gotten away with it.

"She's a really good scammer and part of it was when she's coming in the office after hours under the auspices of cleaning. The dentist didn't know. And until you have someone complain, you didn't know about it."

Rogers says victims should not be afraid to come forward. The Oklahoma Board of Dentistry is working with legitimate dentists to help victims get repair work and tested for diseases. Rogers says the board worries many victims will not come forward because of their immigration status. Anyone who may have come in contact with Hinosa should call (405) 524-9037 to make a report and get help repairing any damage they may have suffered.



Saturday, September 01, 2012

Fugitive on the run—Elizabeth(Dr. Liz) Hinojosa and Monica Salazar Orozco Mother, daughter accused of posing as dentists in Oklahoma City sought by authorities

Elizabeth Hinojosa and Monica Salazar Orozco, of Oklahoma City, worked in offices where alleged crimes took place after hours, investigators said

By [Tim Willert](#) | Published: August 31, 2012

A mother and daughter accused of posing as dentists pulled teeth, performed root canals, injected anesthesia and forged prescriptions, court papers show.

Advertisement

Elizabeth Hinojosa, 47, and Monica Salazar Orozco, 28, both of Oklahoma City, were charged Friday in Oklahoma County District Court with practicing dentistry without a license, a felony. Hinojosa also was charged with one count each of forgery, medical battery and embezzlement.

Warrants were issued for their arrest Thursday, authorities said.

Hinojosa was a dental assistant and her daughter was a receptionist where the alleged crimes took place between September 2010 and May 2011, according to a probable cause affidavit filed with the charges.

Both worked for **Dr. Salam Ramadan**, who owns and operates Dental Spa locations at 1211 SW 44 and 3315 NW 63 in Oklahoma City.

Ramadan said Friday she didn't find out about the alleged crimes until she was contacted by the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry. The board started investigating after receiving a complaint.

"I was blindsided by it," she said. "I had no idea it was going on."

Ramadan said Orozco was caught stealing and never returned to work after police confronted her in early 2009. Hinojosa worked for Ramadan until December 2010.

"She just stopped coming in," Ramadan said.

"None of these people were my patients," she said. "Whatever they were doing, they were doing outside the scope of their work here."

Hinojosa and Orozco scheduled appointments after the offices closed and forwarded office calls to their personal phones, a dentistry board investigator wrote in the affidavit.

They were hired, in part, for their bilingual skills and to provide translation services for their former employer, investigator James Seely wrote.

Seely could not be reached for comment Friday.

Prosecutors allege Hinojosa performed tooth extractions and a root canal and adjusted a patient's braces. She also is accused of forging Ramadan's signature on a prescription for a dental appliance.

Hinojosa, prosecutors said in court documents, injected a patient with anesthesia and performed an extraction which resulted in a "permanent physical injury or disfigurement."

Prosecutors allege Orozco pulled the teeth of one patient and ground the teeth of another. She also is accused of performing root canals and placing and adjusting braces.

Dental equipment, including a dental chair, was discovered missing and believed to be taken from the Dental Spa locations along with narcotic pain medications, according to the affidavit.

Ramadan said the offices were vandalized and the security cameras destroyed during past trespassing incidents.

"Weird things were happening," she said. "The alarm system never went off."

Board of Dentistry suspends Woodward dentist who allegedly abandoned patients, employees

NEWS

by: [Sarah Stewart](#)

Posted: Apr 15, 2016 / 11:00 AM CDT / Updated: Apr 15, 2016 / 06:13 PM CDT

WOODWARD, Okla. – A Woodward dentist who skipped town, leaving his staff unpaid and patients in a lurch, had his license suspended Friday morning by the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry.

Dr. Phillip Powell has been practicing in Woodward for 24 years, and his staff said he's had thousands of patients.

“Staff has been left abandoned without pay. Patients cannot access their records,” said Ilka Heiskell, who used to consult for Powell.

Leslie Miller was Powell’s office manager.

She said he told her via text message that he’d gone to Ukraine.

“It said that ‘I’m sorry. I am leaving. I don’t know what else to tell you. The United States has nothing else for me here,’” Miller said.

His staff said this is actually his fourth trip there and he had researched websites advertising Ukrainian brides.

“He told me he was in the Ukraine, where he wanted to be,” Miller said. “I said ‘Well, this is kind of the coward way to do this.’ I said ‘Why don’t you come back, and we’ll fix everything?’ And, he’s now not talking to me at all.”

Miller is not only out a job but her last two weeks’ pay, as well.

“My husband was laid off, and so and I have kids. One’s fixing to start college,” Miller said.

Powell also left behind patients, many with prepaid dental work.

“I gave him \$16,987 to do implants in her mouth, and her mouth’s not done yet,” said Jon Herring about his wife, Patricia.

“He just picked up and left, lied to his staff members, didn’t pay them, lied to his patients, has patient appointments all the way through the end of May,” said Susan Rogers, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry.

Rogers said they’ve encountered this situation before when a dentist has passed away, but nothing like this.

“We temporarily suspended his license until he comes back in the country to account for what has been alleged. And, patient abandonment is kind of a big deal,” Rogers said.

The Board of Dentistry also plans to work with other local dentists up in Woodward to try and help some of the patients with unfinished dental work.

State board suspends license of local dentist

- By Rachael Van Horn Staff Writer Woodward News

- Apr 16, 2016

A Woodward dentist had his license suspended by the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry Friday morning in an emergency suspension action, according to Board of Dentistry officials.

The action was based on complaints that the dentist abandoned patients and failed to complete work already paid for by patients.

Phillip William Powell, DDS was one of five dentists whose licenses were revoked Friday morning according to Oklahoma Board of Dentistry Executive Director Susan Rogers.

The action comes after Powell allegedly left town abruptly without giving any notice to anyone.

He allegedly told some people he would return after Spring Break in March.

According to Rogers, he told others that he would not be returning at all.

While there are numerous rumors about where Powell might have gone, nothing have been confirmed.

"We have reason to believe he has left the country and does not intend to return," Rogers said.

She said the board has received complaints from patients who have paid for treatments and were in the middle of them when he left. For instance, there is one patient whose tooth was prepared for a crown but the crown procedure was never completed.

He also allegedly has left some of his employees without paying them, according to some reports.

The Oklahoma Board of Dentistry is working with Powell's family members to unravel the complicated issue and establish a receivership for the patients records from Powell's office.

Rogers urged any of Powell's patients who have been abandoned in the middle of complex treatment or who paid for services they never received from Powell to file a complaint with the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry. To do this log onto https://www.ok.gov/dentistry/Applications_&_Forms/index.html. The site will instruct you on how to send in your complaint.

"Please, if you have a complaint file it with us because we can't do anything about it if we don't know about it," Rogers said.

To date, the Woodward News has not been able to locate or contact Powell or anyone who has been in contact with him.

According to Rogers, there is rumor that there are some people have been in contact with him, but there has been no evidence of that.

At present, the last post on his Facebook page was made on Feb. 14. Before that, he posted that he was sad about losing his old English Bull Dog, Sophie. In another curious post that was posted on July 4th 2015 the post refers to a woman who had "stolen my heart" and rumors abound that he could possibly have gone to Ukraine.

It isn't the first time Powell has left abruptly. About 10 years ago, patients describe a similar action in which Powell picked his practice up and left for about one year. Patients then were sent to another local dentist.

Adultery, murder and embezzlement for Tulsa OK dentist Dr. Bert Franklin. But it's only the beginning...



Update November 9, 2018. Bert Franklin has been sentenced to life without parole for the murder of a 19 month old boy. "He is a danger to society," Roxanne Lewis Randall, mother of the victim, told an Oklahoma County judge Friday during the former dentist's sentencing. "He will plot, manipulate and murder." Dressed in black and white stripes and shackles, Bert Glen Franklin hung his head as Randall called him "pure evil."

Update December 6, 2017 – Just when you think that this story could not become any more bizarre, new allegations have surfaced alleging that in addition to the murder that Dr. Frankin has already been accused of, he is also accused of attempting to hire someone to kill the baby’s mother so that she could not appear as a witness in the murder case he is facing. It is alleged that the amount offered for this “hit” was \$300. See full details in this People Magazine article

— <http://people.com/crime/oklahoma-dentist-accused-of-ordering-hit-on-mother-of-toddler-he-allegedly-killed/>

Update May 1, 2017 – this story has now been profiled on the Dr. Phil Show. Part of Dr. Phil McGraw’s interview with Roxanne Lewis-Randall is below. You can see the full interview on Dr. Phil’s web site

here — <http://www.drphil.com/videos/grieving-mom-roxanne-lewis-randall-describes-events-from-the-night-authorities-allege-bert-franklin-fatally-injured-her-toddler/>

Dr. Bert Franklin looks like a wholesome, kindly dentist. His bio on his practice’s web site suggests a privileged and principled background:

Dr. Bert Franklin is a native Tulsan. He grew up attending Victory Christian School, where he was the Valedictorian of his class. He then went on to accomplishing his undergraduate degree in Biomedical Chemistry with a minor in Biology in just 3 years with a Magna Cum Laude Honors.

Realizing the importance of education instilled in him by his parents, he continued his education by attending the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, where he received the Dental Wellness Partner Scholarship, an honor only awarded to four individuals in the country.

He is probably the last guy you would think would get into the trouble he now faces. The married father of four was living a double life, carrying on an affair that lasted over a year, with Roxanne Lewis, a woman who apparently didn’t know that Dr. Franklin was married to someone else.



Then he was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Ms. Lewis' 19-month old son, after his autopsy determined cause of death to be "blunt-force trauma to the head."

But Dr. Franklin's troubles weren't over yet. Next, he was charged with billing \$80,000 to a patient's credit card without authorization.

And if all of this wasn't bizarre enough, one of Dr. Franklin's employees was been charged with impersonating a dentist. See our story at <https://www.prosperident.com/2016/08/17/woman-first-tries-embezzlement-impersonates-dentist-part-crime-wave-affecting-tulsa-ok-office/>. This must have been an exciting office to work in — you just never knew when the police would show up to arrest someone. _____

Dr. Franklin's license suspended

Update: On August 25, 2016, the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry suspended Dr. Franklin, but not because he is accused of committing murder. The suspension is a result of approximately 20 patient complaints alleging unprofessional acts and use of unlicensed auxiliaries. Read the story here: On Friday morning, the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry voted unanimously for an emergency temporary suspension to be placed on Bert Franklin's dental license. Suspension papers were served to Franklin, who remains locked up at the Oklahoma County jail. And the temporary suspension is not based on the murder charge he is facing, but on dozens of patient complaints the board has received. The Oklahoma Board of Dentistry listened to claim after claim of how Franklin performed faulty dental work, allowed his unlicensed dental assistant to do unsupervised procedures, and how he reportedly gave drugs to patients who had no treatment plan in place. "It is very shocking to see," said Dr. James

Sparks, President of the Board of Dentistry. "It makes us all look bad." The documents also allege a patient who was supposed to be under nitrous oxide during a procedure was still awake and heard Franklin and his assistant saying "filthy sexual things" to each other all while he was being treated in the dental chair. Franklin is also accused of asking one of his patients if he could borrow some money for a piece of dental equipment, and then charged a total of \$80,000 to her credit card. "Every patient should go in with a comfort and belief that they are safe. And for him to take advantage of a person in that manner is completely unacceptable," said Board of Dentistry Executive Director, Susan Rogers. Rogers says they began investigating Franklin and his Signature Smiles practice back in February of this year, but since he was arrested for the murder, their phones have been ringing off the hook. "This is a very unusual case. We have a dentist that is charged with First-Degree Murder, which is very serious," said Rogers. "In the last three days we have received multiple phone calls we still have 20 individuals we still need to go interview." News 9 has also learned that Franklin's dental assistant was also charged with impersonating a dentist in Tulsa County and is currently out on bond. "The allegations that have come forth the last two days have actually been much more horrific than the original charges," said Rogers. "To the point that we are obviously very concerned and we are following through with every person who contacts us to legitimize their complaint and see if its valid or not." Franklin does have a right to a full hearing, but he can't do that while he is in jail facing the murder charge. News 9 has learned he is now also facing two counts of obtaining money by fraud in Tulsa County. News 9 spoke with Franklin's attorney about the hearing and the additional charges, and he said Franklin has much bigger worries to deal with right now. Content retrieved from <http://www.news9.com/story/32798057/board-of-dentistry-votes-to-temporarily-suspend-bert-franklins-dental-license>

[Bert Franklin](#), [Oklahoma](#)

Former Tulsa dentist found guilty of killing baby sentenced to life in prison

by Megan Bell Channel 8 News Tulsa

Friday, October 19th 2018



Bert Franklin was found guilty of first degree murder in the death of an Oklahoma City toddler. (KOKH)

TULSA, Okla. (KTUL) — Former Tulsa dentist Bert Franklin was sentenced to life in prison without parole after being convicted of killing a toddler.

An Oklahoma County judge sentenced Franklin to life in prison without parole and another life sentence to be served consecutively. He has also been ordered to pay \$12,000 in restitution. Franklin is expected to appeal the decision. In September, he was found guilty of murder in the first degree and conspiracy to commit murder.

Court documents say video evidence reportedly shows Franklin [slamming the 19-month-old's head into the ground](#) before the child was found unresponsive in Oklahoma City in July 2016.

The baby's mother had been in a relationship with Franklin for over a year at the time of the baby's death while Franklin was married with children in Tulsa.

While in the Oklahoma County Jail awaiting trial, he allegedly used a mobile phone to [try to hire a man to kill the baby's mother](#).

At the end of the trial, a [jury found Franklin guilty](#) of first degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. They recommended he serve a life sentence without possibility of parole.

Woman first tries Embezzlement, then Impersonates Dentist. Only Part of Crime Wave Affecting Tulsa Office



Paige Maples seems like bad news. She was convicted in 2014 of felony embezzlement in a dental office, and was ordered to repay \$23,000 to the dentist who she victimized. In February 2016, she was charged with driving under the influence and speeding, and her parole from her 2014 conviction was revoked.

Update on this — Paige pled guilty to practicing dentistry without a license on Feb 16, 2017 and received a suspended sentence. See <http://www.newson6.com/story/34502979/tulsa-woman-pleads-guilty-to-unlawful-practice-of-dentistry> for details. Then in August 2016, she was charged with practicing dentistry without a license (she is actually a dental assistant), when she impersonated a dentist in the office where she worked (the same office where Dr. Bert Franklin, the owner, has been charged with stealing \$80,000 from a patient and murder).

Unlicensed dentist charged in Tulsa; documents say woman practiced at Signature Smiles



Posted at 3:30 PM, Aug 15, 2016

and last updated 10:43 AM, Aug 16, 2016

TULSA -- A woman who worked at [Signature Smiles](#) was charged for a felony after allegedly treating patients without a license.

34-year-old [Paige Lanell Maples](#) was charged for unlawfully practicing dentistry in south Tulsa after officials say she falsely impersonated to be a dentist at the office located in the Kelly Medical Building on Yale Avenue.

According to court documents, Maples took the following action in "examining, diagnosing, prepared a written dental laboratory prescription and repaired" a patient's dentures.

Under Oklahoma state law, a dentist must be licensed with the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry.

Maples was arrested on August 1st and bonded out the same day.

She was arraigned on August 8th with a felony charge.

Eleven days before Maples' arrest, another dentist working in the same practice, Brent Franklin, was arrested on murder charges.

Signature Smiles is currently closed. There's a sign posted outside its suite directing former patients who have complaints or questions to contact the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry.

It's unknown when or if the dental office will reopen.

Tulsa dentist charged in child porn case

Michael Overall and Bill Braun World Staff Writers

Aug 1, 1998

Updated Feb 25, 2019

A Tulsa dentist was charged Friday with producing child pornography after allegedly taking sexually explicit photographs of young patients while they were under anesthesia.

Donald C. Johnson, 47, likely will face additional charges of child molestation, although such charges were not filed Friday, District Attorney Chuck Richardson said.

Johnson is vacationing with his family in Colorado. As of late afternoon Friday, the dentist apparently remained unaware of the charges against him, Richardson said.

"He will be arrested as soon as possible in Colorado if we can find him there -- or we'll be waiting for him when he returns to Tulsa," he said.

Employees in the dentist's office became suspicious about Johnson months ago, at least in part because he often saw young patients alone, officials said.

Two employees used Johnson's vacation absence as an opportunity to search his office at 5676 W. Skelly Drive, according to the search warrant affidavit. They found a box full of pornographic pictures, recognizing some young patients in them, the affidavit says.

The employees reported their find to the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office late Thursday, and sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant at the office Friday morning, Sheriff Stanley Glanz said.

The deputies found more than 100 pornographic pictures of young girls performing oral sex on a man, officials said.

The photos, taken with a Polaroid-type instant camera normally used to photograph patients' teeth, involve at least 20 girls who appear to be between the ages of 8 and 16, Glanz said.

Deputies were executing a second search warrant late Friday at the dentist's home in south Tulsa, where they expected to find additional photographs, Glanz said.

The search warrant also authorized deputies to seize any computer equipment that might have been used to post the photographs on the Internet.

It will be difficult to identify the victims, officials said, because most of the girls had towels over their eyes or were otherwise masked in the photographs.

But many of the photos include the photographer's own hand, and office employees have identified Johnson's wedding ring in the pictures, Glanz said.

The background in the photos also reveals the location as Johnson's office, and the children are clearly sitting in the dentist's chair, the sheriff said.

"We believe these children were unconscious at the time these photographs were taken, but these children may still be having some problems, psychologically," Glanz said.

"That's why it's important for parents to contact us immediately if they believe their child may have been involved, so we can get help to these children right away."

Concerned parents can contact the Sheriff's Office at (918) 596-5601 or the Victim's Witness Center at (918) 596-4915.

Michael Overall can be reached at 581-8383. Bill Braun can be reached at 581-8455.

Former Dentist Gets 70 Years in Molestations

LARRY LEVY

Published: Sat, January 9, 1999 12:00 AM

TULSA - Former dentist Donald C. Johnson was sentenced Friday to 70 years in prison after admitting he molested five girls.

Associate District Judge Bill Beasley sentenced Johnson, 48, who pleaded guilty to five counts of lewd molestation in a plea bargain with prosecutors. In exchange for the plea, charges of possessing lewd photographs were dropped and charges of sexual abuse of minor children were reduced.

Johnson was sentenced to 20-year terms on two counts and 10-year terms on the remaining three, all to be served consecutively. Formal sentencing was set for 11 a.m. Feb. 16.

Beasley agreed to defense requests for a presentencing report and a chance to suggest where Johnson will be held.

Jim Rabon, coordinator of sentence administration and offender records for the Corrections Department, said Johnson probably would serve 28 to 32 years in prison unless he received parole.

Johnson could leave prison much sooner with a parole; those are rare for sex offenders, particularly molesters.

About half the 24 spectators at the sentencing were either from the families of victims or former employees at Johnson's dental office. Johnson's attorney, Robert "Skip" Durbin, said the agreement was made in part to spare the victims further pain.

Durbin said the plea agreement was probably good for society, but "not so good for Dr. Johnson... it is not a good day for Dr. Johnson."

Johnson spent a week as a fugitive after employees at his Tulsa dental office found a box of photographs of blindfolded girls who appeared to be anaesthetized while performing oral sex on a man. The man was identified as Johnson, based on a distinctive ring shown in the photos.

Durbin said the ex-dentist "accepted his fate and consequences as a man."

Earlier, Durbin successfully fought to have a "confession" suppressed from any trial. After court Friday, Durbin said a defense attorney fights on two fronts - one legal and the other factual. The "confession" was a legal point, he said, but "factual defenses were lacking" in the Johnson case.

Before the proceedings, District Attorney Tim Harris told reporters the victims did not want to talk to them. At the opening of court, Beasley made the same request, noting that victims asked for "anonymity and privacy."

(Story continued below...)

Johnson was sworn in before signing a "finding of fault."

"Yes, your honor," he told the judge when asked whether he understood the plea agreement.

Harris told Beasley he agreed with the bargain made between Durbin and prosecutor Steve Sewell. But Harris repeated the five counts and the sentences for each "so it is clear," he said. Before entering the courtroom, Johnson was asked for a comment and said, "not right now." On leaving, he said, "not now... not now."

Staff writer Anthony Thornton contributed to this report.

Other States Have These Issues Also

III. man dies after being administered too much anesthesia

By DrBicuspid.com staff writers

July 27, 2021 -- An Illinois man died after being administered an inappropriate amount of anesthesia during dental surgery, according to a report published on July 26 in the [Lake and McHenry County Scanner](#).

Corey Causey, 51, of Volo was taken to the hospital by ambulance on July 9 after his oral surgeon, Dr. Aaron Cwik of Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons of Lake County in Gurnee, gave him 200 mg of propofol and failed to monitor him during the procedure, the report said.

Causey was having five teeth removed. Cwik did not set up an electrocardiogram to monitor Causey, and Causey was not given supplemental oxygen from the beginning of

the surgery, according to the article. He died June 10 at Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, IL.

LAKE & MCHENRY COUNTY SCANNER

KEEPING YOU INFORMED 24/7

Volo man dies after being given too much anesthesia during surgery at dentist in Gurnee, coroner says

BY [SAM BORCIA](#) | JULY 20, 2021 6:11 PM



Corey Causey, 51, of Volo, died following a dental procedure on June 9 at Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Of Lake County, 202 South Greenleaf Street in Gurnee. | Inset Photo via Facebook. Background Photo: Google Street View.

A criminal investigation is underway after authorities say an oral surgeon gave a Volo man an overdose of anesthesia and failed to properly monitor him during his tooth surgery in Gurnee, causing his death.

Corey Causey, 51, of Volo, was transported by ambulance to the hospital on June 9 after a dental procedure at Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Of Lake County, 202 South Greenleaf Street in Gurnee.

Causey died the following day at Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, according to Lake County Coroner Jennifer Banek.

Causey was having a dental procedure to extract five of his teeth that was performed by Dr. Aaron Cwik.

Banek told Lake and McHenry County Scanner that Causey was given a single dose of 200 milligrams of the drug propofol, which Banek said was too much anesthesia.

“Under the dose that he was given, it would render a person unable to breathe,” Banek said.

Causey stopped breathing and went into cardiac arrest during the procedure. Paramedics were called to the dental office and they transported him to the hospital where he died the following day.

Banek, who is also a certified registered nurse anesthetist, said that Causey should have been given a different anesthetic medication or a much smaller dose of propofol as Causey’s co-morbidities put him at higher anesthetic risk.

Cwik also did not set up all the necessary monitoring devices, like an EKG, on Causey during the procedure, Banek said. He was also not given supplemental oxygen from the start of the procedure.

Banek said there should have also been an additional specialist assisting during the surgery. She said it is important to have one person administer the anesthesia and another who does the oral procedure, not one person doing both jobs.

“[The oral surgeon] can bill for the anesthesia and the procedure, so there’s no incentive to bring in a separate anesthesia provider to focus solely on administering the anesthesia, while the oral surgeon focuses on performing the procedure,” Banek said.

Banek concluded that the dose of propofol given became life-threatening because of the size of the dose, Causey’s past medical history, the fact that he was not given supplemental oxygen from the start of the procedure, and because he was not properly monitored.

Banek called the entire situation a “recipe for disaster” and said, “there was a deviation in the standard of care.”

Causey, who was a veteran, leaves behind a wife and child.

Banek said the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office has opened a criminal investigation into the case and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is also investigating.

A spokesperson for the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office declined to comment on the case.

Cwik still has an active dentist license and active dental sedation permit, according to a database maintained by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

The website for Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Of Lake County still shows Cwik as being one of two dentists who work at their office.

Dental employee accused of swapping fentanyl for saline

By DrBicuspid.com staff writers

January 15, 2020 -- A dental office employee in Ohio pleaded not guilty on January 10 to felony charges of stealing and tampering with drugs. She is accused of stealing fentanyl from the oral surgery center where she worked and refilling the vials with saline, according to news reports.

Brittany Roehm, who also is known as Brittany Byland, was indicted on the felony charges of theft of drugs and tampering with drugs. She is accused of taking the powerful synthetic opioid pain reliever from Cincinnati Oral, Maxillofacial & Dental Implant Surgery while she was employed there.

In October 2019, the practice manager reported to police that several doses of fentanyl were missing from its inventory. The drugs disappeared between September 6 and October 18, 2019, which coincided with Roehm's employment at the practice.

The investigation revealed that Roehm allegedly emptied the fentanyl vials and then refilled them with saline. She took 10 doses of the painkiller, totaling 470 mL.

Her next scheduled court appearance is January 22.

Oral surgeon accused of using patients' opioids has license suspended

By [Melissa Busch](http://MelissaBusch.com), DrBicuspid.com associate editor

December 27, 2019 -- The Iowa Dental Board has suspended the license and the general anesthesia permit for an oral surgeon who allegedly diverted patients' opioids for his own personal use, according to a settlement agreement and final order.

The dental board suspended the license of Andrew Hartwig, DDS, PhD, of Oral Surgery Associates of Iowa City, after finding that he engaged in unprofessional or unethical conduct. Their findings were based on allegations that he diverted opioids meant to be used to sedate patients for his own personal use.

His license remains suspended until January 31, 2020. His suspension will be stayed and his license will be placed on probation for five years if he complies with a host of conditions, including enrolling in the Iowa practitioner program, according to the board's December 3 settlement order. The practitioner program evaluates, assists, and monitors the recovery or rehabilitation of professionals, such as dentists and hygienists.

Dr. Hartwig's general anesthesia permit will be suspended through March 31, 2020. From April 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020, he may not personally administer sedation.

However, he may use the services of a licensed sedation provider or another permit holder to provide sedation to his patients.

On September 1, 2020, Dr. Hartwig will be permitted to administer sedation to patients only if he has completed the practitioner program.

If Dr. Hartwig "is successfully discharged from the Iowa practitioner program, he shall remain subject to the probationary terms until he is discharged from probation," according to the order.

Hartwig, who has had a license since 1993, is restricted from administering opioids for sedation under the board's order. He also must have a board-approved practice monitor watch over him at work. The monitor will have to report any concerns and submit quarterly reports to the board throughout the probationary period, the order states.

The staff at Hartwig's practice must ensure that the oral surgeon doesn't have access to the space where the controlled substances are stored. He also must pay \$1,200 annually to the board for the entire probationary period to cover the cost of the monitoring. Dr. Hartwig also must submit quarterly reports to the board about his compliance.

Finally, Dr. Hartwig agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000, which will be paid into Iowa's general fund, as part of the settlement.

Fla. dental hygienist arrested for posing as dentist

By DrBicuspid.com staff writers

March 26, 2021 -- The Florida attorney general's office arrested a dental hygienist on March 5 for reportedly illegally practicing as an unlicensed dentist.

Julio Suarez allegedly performed unlicensed and unauthorized procedures on patients, which defrauded the Medicaid program out of more than \$8,000, according to Attorney General Ashley Moody.

For more than two years, Suarez allegedly worked as an unlicensed dentist for Art Dental Services, performing dental services and procedures on unwitting and unsuspecting patients, according to the complaint. Suarez then billed Medicaid for these services.

He is charged with one count of Medicaid fraud, a second-degree felony, and one count of grand theft, a third-degree felony. If convicted, Suarez could serve a prison sentence for up to 15 years and be forced to pay up to \$10,000 in fines.

Woman charged with extracting 13 teeth without a license

By DrBicuspid.com staff writers

July 20, 2021 -- A dental office worker in Reno, NV, has been arrested for allegedly stealing nearly \$23,000 in cash and checks from her employer and extracting 13 teeth from a single patient without having a license to perform the procedure, according to a report on WIVB.com.

Laurel Eich, 42, now faces one gross misdemeanor count of conspiracy to commit burglary, as well as felony counts of performing surgery without a license; burglary of a business, second (or more) offense; grand larceny greater than \$5,000 but less than \$25,000; and violation of probation, WIVB.com reported.

The offenses were allegedly committed at a dental office on Sun Valley Blvd. in Reno.

Nevada dental office worker accused of stealing \$22K, pulling 13 teeth from patient

NEWS

by: Nexstar Media Wire

Posted: Jul 17, 2021 / 12:03 AM EDT / Updated: Jul 17, 2021 / 12:03 AM EDT



Laurel Eich, 42, of Reno. (Washoe County Sheriff's Office)

(NEXSTAR) – Sheriff's detectives arrested a dental office employee who they say burglarized a Nevada dental office and later admitted to extracting 13 teeth from a single patient, despite not having a license for the procedure.

Reno resident Laurel Eich, 42, faces multiple felonies after she allegedly broke into the Sun Valley business and made off with \$22,861 in cash and checks, according to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

Detectives arrested Eich Wednesday after an investigation that began May 3 when officers responded to an after-hours alarm call and found the office door ajar and a back window broken. The only thing missing, investigators say, was the money.

Eich, who ultimately became a person of interest in the break-in and theft, admitted to detectives and "multiple people" that she had also performed 13 tooth extractions on a single patient at an earlier time, according to a [news release](#) Thursday. She allegedly used anesthetic that had been disposed of by the dental office.

Eich now faces felony counts of performing surgery without a license; burglary of a business, second (or more) offense; grand larceny greater than \$5,000 but less than \$25,000; and violation of probation. She was also arrested on one gross misdemeanor count of conspiracy to commit burglary.

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[Washoe County Sheriff's Office](#)

July 15 at 11:10 AM ·

PRESS RELEASE: Dental office employee arrested for commercial burglary conspiracy, performing procedure without license

Washoe County Sheriff's Office detectives have arrested Laurel Eich, 42, of Reno on multiple felony counts stemming from a commercial burglary at a Sun Valley dental office.

On May 3, 2021 patrol deputies responded to an after-hours alarm call at a dental office on Sun Valley Boulevard. Deputies found a door ajar, and a back window broken. After the business was cleared by K9 deputies, it was discovered that only a cash drawer was disturbed. A total \$22,861 was stolen in cash and checks. During the investigation, detectives identified Eich as a person of interest in the planning and execution of the commercial burglary.

During the investigation, detectives also learned that Eich performed 13 tooth extractions at an earlier date and time on one person. Eich admitted to multiple people, including detectives, that she performed the medical procedure and used anesthetic disposed of by the dental office.

With assistance from the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Parole and Probation Division, Eich was ultimately interviewed and arrested on July 14, 2021 on multiple counts: one felony count of Performing Surgery on Another Without a License; one felony count of Burglary of a Business, second (or more) offense; one felony count of Grand Larceny Greater Than \$5,000 but Less Than \$25,000; three felony counts of Violation of Probation or Condition of a Suspended Sentence; and one gross misdemeanor count of Conspiracy to Commit Burglary.

Illegal dentist operation leads to woman's basement: sheriff's office

[NEWS](#)

by: Talia Naquin

Posted: Jul 5, 2021 / 12:45 PM EDT / Updated: Jul 5, 2021 / 12:45 PM EDT

ST. BERNARD PARISH, Louisiana (WJW) – Deputies in [Louisiana](#) are looking for a woman accused of unlawfully practicing dentistry from her home and without a license.

The [St. Bernard Sheriff's Office](#) was tipped off after a parent called them.

The parents say Aireon Davis, 28, put braces on their 15-year-old child without permission.

Deputies say she performed the procedure from her basement and sent the parents a bill.

Following the complaint, detectives learned Davis was advertising the business from Instagram.

A search warrant found various dentistry tools and orthodontic supplies.

Investigators are still searching for Davis. A warrant has been issued for her arrest.



St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office
on Friday



St. Bernard Sheriff's Office issues arrest warrant for woman practicing unlicensed orthodontics

The St. Bernard Sheriff's Office has issued an arrest warrant for a woman unlawfully practicing orthodontics in St. Bernard Parish, Sheriff James Pohlmann said.

Aireon Davis, 28, whose last known address was in the 1200 block of Mehle Avenue in Arabi, is wanted for practicing dentistry without a license.

On June 22, Sheriff Pohlmann said, detectives with the Criminal Investigations Bureau received a complaint from the parent of a 15-year-old female who said Davis put braces on their child's teeth without their consent and charged them money.

During the course of the investigation, detectives learned Davis was advertising the illegal orthodontic business on Instagram under the account "bracee_yourself" and running it out of her apartment.

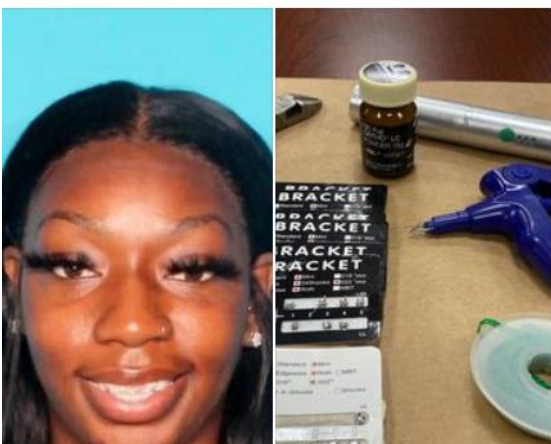
Based on this information, detectives obtained a search warrant for Davis' apartment. Davis could not be located, but detectives retrieved various dentistry tools and orthodontic supplies from the residence.

According to Louisiana law, no one is allowed to practice dentistry without first being authorized and issued a license by the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry. According to the board, Davis does not have a license to practice dentistry in Louisiana.

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Davis, or who has been a victim of Davis unlawfully practicing dentistry on them is asked to contact the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office at (504) 271-2501 or the Criminal Investigations Bureau at (504) 278-7630 or (504) 271-TIPS or 8477.

#sbsso



Woman accused of unlicensed dentistry, advertised on Instagram: JPSO

- Michelle Hunter, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
- PUBLISHED MAY 18, 2017 AT 7:11 PM | UPDATED JUL 7, 2021 AT 11:27 AM



Authorities arrested a New Orleans woman accused of [performing dental procedures without a license](#).

Doing business as Bossy Smiles & Waxes by Boss B LLC., Brittany Bridges, 29, offered services such as braces maintenance and teeth whitening at a Terrytown office, advertising them on Instagram, according to a Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office incident report

But Bridges does not hold a license with the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry, a violation of state law, authorities said.

Bridges on Thursday morning called the allegations false. She said she has a certificate as a dental assistant and only performs teeth wh"I'm going to fight it in court," she said. "You don't need a license for teeth whitening."

The Sheriff's Office learned of Bridges' alleged unlicensed business venture on April 11 after receiving a complaint from a Metairie dentist office where she used to work. Bridges was recently fired, but her former co-workers told a supervisor that she'd been offering them money to steal dental supplies, an incident report said.

The employees also revealed that Bridges had been advertising dental procedures on her Instagram page, @bossysmiles, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The page, which was still active as of Thursday morning, featured bright advertisements with the catch line "\$1,000,000 smile, affordable price." Services marketed included teeth whitening for \$130, braces maintenance and snap-on porcelain veneers.

"I'm going to fight it in court," she said. "You don't need a license for teeth whitening."

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Bridges said she did not realize there was a "big difference" in what a potential customer could infer by the use of the word maintenance.

However, the state law bans not only the practice of dental procedures, but also the "attempt or offer to practice" such procedures.

The flier is being redone to let customers know her services are strictly whitening of teeth with braces, she said.

In a March 22 Instagram post, Bridges extolled the importance of having a trained dental professional carry out teeth whitening procedures. She identified herself as a 2010 dental assistant graduate of Blue Cliff College. Bridges also said she received her expanded duty dental assistant certification from the LSU School of Dentistry.

No one from either institution was available to confirm whether Bridges received certifications through their programs on Wednesday afternoon. Bridges said Thursday that she has a dental assistant's certificate and has been doing such work since 2009.

It's not clear whether Bridges may have also violated a similar state law regarding cosmetology. In addition to dental work, Bridges advertised facial and body waxing as well as lash applications. Those

types of services [are considered esthetics](#), and [Louisiana requires](#) practicing estheticians to obtain a certificate of registration with the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology.

Bridges' name did not appear during a search of the board's cosmetology licenses. No one from either institution was available to confirm whether Bridges received certifications through their programs on Wednesday afternoon. Bridges said Thursday that she has a dental assistant's certificate and has been doing such work since 2009.

It's not clear whether Bridges may have also violated a similar state law regarding cosmetology. In addition to dental work, Bridges advertised facial and body waxing as well as lash applications. Those types of services [are considered esthetics](#), and [Louisiana requires](#) practicing estheticians to obtain a certificate of registration with the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology.

Bridges' name did not appear during a search of the board's cosmetology licenses.

Bridges was released the same day on a \$5,000 bond.

***CLARIFICATION:** The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office fielding the complaint about this case, but the Louisiana Attorney General's Office also took part in the investigation, a Sheriff's Office official said.

NEW ORLEANS —

WDSU Investigates has uncovered allegations that a local woman is doing dental work without any sort of license, and possibly putting patients at risk.

The Louisiana Board of Dentistry is now asking local law enforcement officials to get involved, again. The woman being accused by the dental board of practicing without a license or proper training is Brittany Bridges and she runs a bShe's been arrested before. But, to date, there are no current charges filed regarding these latest complaints. And that has some people frustrated.

Dentists at Children's Hospital Uptown and at the Louisiana State University Dental School are concerned with some patients heading to their clinics.

"We have noticed an uptick in patients coming in who sought care from nonlicensed providers," said Suzanne Fournier, who chairs LSU's Department of Pediatric Dentistry. She said some children are getting worked on by unlicensed dentists and coming to her to fix serious problems after the fact.

"Once you start moving teeth, it gets to the point where you could cause long-term disfigurement," Fournier said.

Fournier said she has seen some shoddy work on kids over the past year.

"I'm worried for our public safety -- that people will get inappropriate care," Fournier said.

It's also attracted the attention of the Louisiana Board of Dentistry.

"There was an unlicensed person, not a dentist or a hygienist, just a member of the public putting braces on people," Dr. Claudia Cavallino said.

Cavallino said one of the people the board has received complaints about over and over again is Bridges.

"She is practicing without a license," Cavallino said. Cavallino is a pediatric dentist with practices in New Orleans and Houma. She's also the vice president of the state dental board.

"It's a huge concern. You can seriously injure someone's oral health and the way their teeth fit together and you can cause a lot of damage if you don't know what you're doing - you're moving teeth through bone," Cavallino said.

Late last year the dental board said it had received so many complaints about Bridges -- allegedly doing dental procedures without a license -- that it had to try and step in.

But its hands are tied.

"Unfortunately, the state board can't do anything about this because she doesn't have a license. So we are the regulatory agency that can sanction a dentist or a hygienist, but when it's an unlicensed person performing dentistry, we have no jurisdiction. All we can do is turn that over to law enforcement," Cavallino said.

The board recently asked Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry to launch an investigation into Bridges and her company, again.

Back in 2017, an investigative file -- obtained by WDSU Investigates -- shows that the attorney general's office investigated and got an arrest warrant for Bridges. The charge: illegal practice of dentistry.

Investigators said that on Bridges' Instagram account, she and Bossy Smiles adThe AG's agents handling the case said Bridges twice stood them up, but eventually turned herself in to them, was booked in the Jefferson Parish jail and soon released. Months later, the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office declined to prosecute, citing a lack of witness cooperation and not feeling it could prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

WDSU legal analyst Robert Jenkins said having no victim in the case hurt the DA's chances in court.

"If the board can prove -- through paperwork or whatever -- then they may be able to go forward, but in many cases you need a victim," Jenkins said.

In addition, some victims are reluctant to come forward due to embarrassment or fear of being judged. But one year later, in 2018, the state dentistry board received this email from a dentist's office.

It reads: "We had a patient come into the office today with braces on. She stated that she recently had them placed with Bossy Smiles, but there was no doctor."

It goes on to say, "It does not sound legitimate."

And throughout 2019, Cavallino said more complaints piled up with the board.

"It's one of the worst cases that I've seen in recent years," Cavallino said.

A few weeks ago, we tracked down Bridges by phone. She consented to an on-camera interview but on the agreed-upon day she was unavailable. WDSU Investigates left a voicemail for her on that day but it was not returned, nor were subsequent voicemails.

In our initial conversation, she told us she has an office in the 4800 block of Banks Street in the Mid-City section of New Orleans, but no one in that block knew of her and there were no visible business listings. In state records, Bridges lists this home on Caffin Avenue in the Lower Ninth Ward as her domicile.

We went to the house -- twice.

It's owned by her grandparents, and they told us they didn't know where Bridges was and she doesn't live there.

Also, in our initial conversation in early January, Bridges told WDSU Investigates she had not heard from the board recently and is not aware of any new concerns or investigations involving her. The dentistry board said that while several people are probably doing the same thing they are accusing Bridges of, she is high on their radar.

"She is breaking the law and it's appalling to me that she hasn't been prosecuted in two years -- especially with the amount of complaints that we have received at the board office from patients and dentists alike. It's rather shocking to me, honestly," Cavallino said.

Several days after our first call, we got Bridges on the phone, she again agreed to an interview but we were not able to speak with her again to confirm when and where that interview would take place.

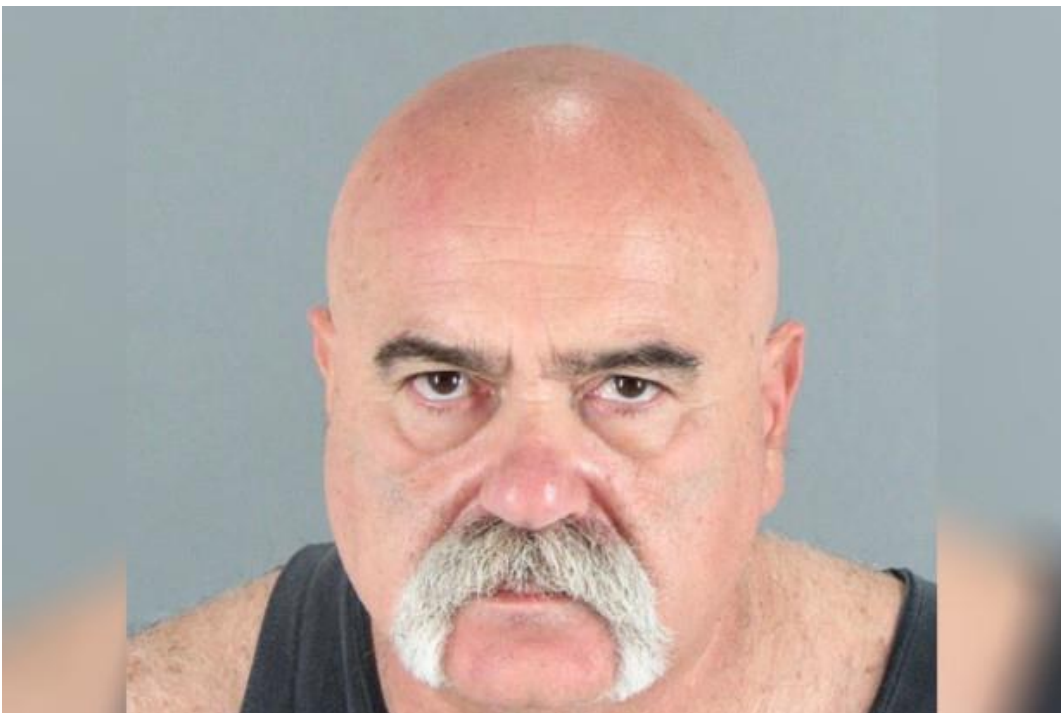
Days after our initial story aired, Bridges' lawyer, Tanya Picou Faia responded. She says Bridges is being framed by others who are using Bridges business name and performing inappropriate dental work. The Jefferson Parish DA's office said it has no open or active investigation into Bridges. As for the dental board, its members have some tips for people:

1. Ask for credentials before you let anyone work on your teeth.
2. Make sure they have a state license.
3. Anyone who only accepts cash, that should be a red flag, says the board.
4. Report anyone suspicious to local law enforcement if you have an issue with them.

Man accused of posing as dentist allegedly cooked meth in office

By Fox News

Mrch 17, 2017 | 8:11pm



Joseph Hirsch San Mateo County Jail

A California man is accused of practicing dentistry without a license in an unsanitary office where he allegedly cooked meth. Joseph Hirsch, of Redwood City, is being held in San Mateo County jail on \$500,000 bail after authorities received a tip about his alleged crimes, [Mercy News reported](#).

Hirsch, 59, is accused of possessing and manufacturing controlled substances, possessing brass knuckles and possessing ammunition as a felon, the report said. Authorities said it was unclear if any patients had been harmed as a result of treatment allegedly provided by Hirsch.

Authorities arrested Hirsch after serving a search warrant at Thermo Dental and a three-month investigation involving California's Department of Dentistry and the state's Department of Justice, Mercury News reported. The office is allegedly surrounded by warehouse businesses and auto-repair shops.

A news release revealed authorities discovered a "crude dentist office," with an x-ray machine and dental tools, as well as narcotics and equipment used to manufacture narcotics. A man who answered the phone at Thermos Dentistry told Mercury News he had no comment on the arrest. Hirsch has been charged with possessing and manufacturing controlled substances, possessing brass knuckles and possessing ammunition as a felon, and is being held in San Mateo County jail on \$500,000 bail.

Fake dentist with a criminal record 'treated patients and cooked meth in a makeshift office'

- **Joseph Hirsch, 59, of California, is accused of fitting patients with dentures at his 'crude' dental office in San Carlos**
- **A search of the office yielded methamphetamine and equipment used to manufacture narcotics, according to affidavit**
- **Hirsch's office consisted of a dentist chair, an X-ray machine and other tools of the trade**
- **Suspect has been charged with possession and manufacturing of controlled substances, possessing brass knuckles and ammunition while being a felon**

By [SNEJANA FARBEROV FOR DAILYMAIL.COM](#)

PUBLISHED: 10:53 EDT, 17 March 2017 | UPDATED: 17:19 EDT, 17 March 2017

Multitasker: Joseph Hirsch, 59, is accused of practicing dentistry without a license out of a California office that doubled as a meth lab

A felon who allegedly practiced dentistry without a license and cooked methamphetamine inside his makeshift office has been arrested in [California](#).

Joseph Hirsch, 59, was taken into custody at 7am on Tuesday after the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force served a search warrant at Thermo Dental on Old county road in San Carlos.

According to a news release from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, the search of that location yielded narcotics and equipment used to manufacture narcotics.

A warrant affidavit revealed that the illegal drug in question was methamphetamine, reported [Mercury News](#).

Investigators also found a 'crude' dental office inside the building, which consisted of a dentist chair, an X-ray machine and other tools of the trade.

It is suspected that Hirsch was providing dental treatments to patients without a license.

Tuesday's raid on Hirsch's ersatz dental practice came more than a year after the narcotics task force received a tip about the suspect's activities, which prompted a three-month investigation in early 2016.



Practice: The San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force served a search warrant at Thermo Dental in San Carlos, seizing methamphetamine and equipment used to manufacture narcotics

It is unclear at this time how long Hirsch had been illegally practicing dentistry, or whether any of his patients were hurt as a result of his ministrations.

California Department of Consumer Affairs Detective Ryan Blonien told [CBS SF](#) it appears Hirsch was running a denture manufacturing venture and was also practicing dentistry on the side. Blonien said Hirsch never had a dental license but was fitting patients for dentures.

The 59-year-old pseudo-dentist was booked into the San Mateo County Jail on \$500,000 on suspicion of possession and manufacturing of controlled substances, possessing brass knuckles and ammunition while being a felon.

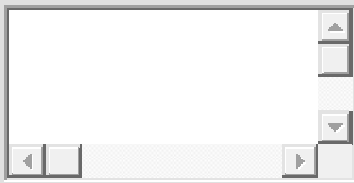
Hirsch could face an additional charge of working as an unlicensed dentist pending the outcome of a separate investigation that is being conducted by state Department of Dentistry.

More victims identified in alleged molestation by Concord dental assistant

By [Kristen Sze](#) Concord California, ABC news channel 7

Saturday, April 9, 2016

[EMBED <> MORE VIDEOS](#)



Concord police have confirmed that two more children say they were abused by a dental assistant, and they're asking other victims to call a special hotline set up especially for this case.

CONCORD, Calif. (KGO) -- Concord police confirm two more children say they were abused by a dental assistant.

Police have set up a special hotline pertaining just to this case -- 925-603-5836. They did not, however, find these two latest victims via the hotline. And though staff at the clinic is not talking to reporters, they are working with police and helped identify the two young girls from video on the suspect's cellphone.

"It's really bad you know?" said parent Maria Hernandez. "It's really scary."

News of the sexual assaults has spread quickly. And patients at the La Clinica Monument dental office on Sierra Road are thinking twice about bringing their kids to the dentist.

"Go take some pliers and take your kid's teeth out, you'll be more secure there," said another parent. Police say they've now interviewed a total of three victims, all girls under the age of 10. And it's just the beginning.

"We know that there's probably gonna be a lot more coming forward," said Cpl. Christopher Blakely. After the first girl spoke up, police got a search warrant for Alejandro Saro's cellphone.

They identified the next two victims by looking at the videos they say he recorded while he was molesting them.

"He is pulling their pants down and he's videotaping their private areas, and also videotaping their face in some of these videos," Blakely said.

Saro remains in jail on \$8.1 million bond.

So far, he's charged with eight counts of forcible lewd acts on a child, including one who prosecutors say he assaulted three different times.

He's also charged with possessing child pornography.

"The detective told me there were some enhancements that they added, being that there was medical gas administered," said Blakely.

Police have been flooded with calls from parents wondering if their children were victims. Many say the staff told them to stay in the waiting room while their kids got treatment.

Hernandez says her kids see a different dentist.

Bloom: Do you go back there in the office with them or do you stay in the waiting room?"

Hernandez: "No, I go with my kids. Every time."

State regulators say there's no law prohibiting staff from being alone with a child. But parents and police say it's unusual.

"For another adult not to be present? Yeah, that's kind of disturbing," said Blakely.

ABC7 News spoke exclusively with Melissa Faria who went to dental assistant school at Heald College-Concord with Saro for 18 months.

"It was so shocking to see someone I knew do something so horrific," Faria said. "Between our classes, we would sit together as a group. Five girls, two guys, study, quiz each other."

She said there were no red flags to indicate he may be a child molester.

"He appeared to be a very kind person, he was shy. But he never, that's why it's so shocking," she said.

North Carolina Charlotte Observer

Ex-employees say they saved dentist's syringes (semen shots?)

<http://www.charlotte.com> ^

Posted on 7/25/2004, 9:33:41 PM by Stew Padasso

Ex-employees say they saved dentist's syringes

Workers testify they were suspicious of Hall's actions with patients

KAREN GARLOCH

Staff Writer

RALEIGH - Two former employees of Cornelius dentist Dr. John Hall became suspicious of his behavior in May 2003 and, over the next few months, collected five syringes from his office that were found to contain his semen, according to testimony Saturday before the N.C. Board of Dental Examiners.

Cheryl Lynn MacLeod of Concord said she found it unusual when Hall began asking her to leave a patient's side to retrieve items that he didn't end up using, when she overheard him telling patients to "swallow" something, and when she saw him take a syringe out of his lab coat pocket while working beside a patient.

MacLeod said multiple patients remarked on the substance Hall had put in their mouths. She and Susie Hillman, Hall's former office administrator, took the five syringes from office waste containers and Hall's lab coat pockets and gave them to police.

MacLeod and Hillman testified on the second day of a public hearing on the state dental board's allegations that Hall violated dentistry's standard of care, engaged in "immoral conduct," and committed "sexual assault or battery" by asking six former patients, including a 14-year-old, to swallow his semen. Five of the six patients testified Friday about their experiences.

The dental board suspended Hall's license Nov. 5, after police began investigating the allegations brought to them by MacLeod and Hillman. In February, the board restored Hall's license with conditions, including the requirement that he cannot be alone with female patients.

After the hearing, the board's panel of five dentists will decide whether Hall can keep his license. Mecklenburg County's district attorney's office and Charlotte and Cornelius police are continuing to investigate.

Hall's lawyers say the dentist has been falsely accused by disgruntled former employees and that he was collecting his semen in the syringes because he was taking Propecia, a drug to promote hair growth. Potential side effects include low sperm count and diminished semen, according to Hall's lawyer, Emerson Thompson of Charlotte.

During his opening statement and cross-examination of witnesses, Thompson suggested the substance Hall asked patients to swallow could have been a dental product.

In a sworn deposition read aloud Saturday, Hall's former dental assistant Rhonda Hamilton described several dental products used in Hall's office and none matched how some patients described the substance.

Most of the dental products Hamilton described would have been suctioned out, not swallowed, she said, and they would have been applied to specific teeth or tissue with a brush tip, not squirted into the mouth.

When Cornelius police searched Hall's office Nov. 5, they confiscated five more syringes with Hall's semen from his desk, according to the board and hearing testimony.

The hearing, which is scheduled for at least five days, continues today and will reconvene next weekend.

1 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:33:44 PM by **Stew Padasso**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

just YUCKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKK!

2 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:36:36 PM by **oust the louse**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

I worked for years, off and on, for my dad, a dentist, and we NEVER gave patients anything to swallow. That's ridiculous.

3 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:36:36 PM by **CobaltBlue**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

HANG HIM HIGH.

4 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:36:44 PM by **TASMANIANRED** (Kerry/Edwards. A pig in a dress is still a pig.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso; TheBigB; presidio9; Constitution Day**

Oh fercrissakes...

5 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:37:08 PM by **martin_fierro** (Zydecodependent.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

Now open up and say Ahhhahhhhahhhhhrrrrrrhhhhggggrrrrhhhhaaaaa

6 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:38:16 PM by **Bronco_Buster_FweetHyagh**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

Hall's lawyers say the dentist has been falsely accused by disgruntled former employees and that he was collecting his semen in the syringes because he was taking Propecia, a drug to promote hair

growth. Potential side effects include low sperm count and diminished semen, according to Hall's lawyer, Emerson Thompson of Charlotte.

Why, of course.

Makes perfect sense.

<|:/~

7 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:38:39 PM by **martin_fierro** (Zydecodependent.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Bronco_Buster_FweetHyagh**

Please rinse, now swallow.

8 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:39:07 PM by **Stew Padasso** ("That boy is nuttier than a squirrel turd.")
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 6](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

This is a very interesting perversion.

9 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:43:55 PM by **Bogey780** (Massachusettes' two senators have a combined record of zero people left to drown)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

take him out and shoot him

10 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:44:38 PM by **Taffini** (Simone is French. She hates everything.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 8](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

this is sick. "Thanks" for posting it AARRRGGGgggggggg

11 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:45:16 PM by **Viet-Boat-Rider** (Kerry Lied)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 8](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Taffini**

check him for aids

12 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:46:07 PM by **Taffini** (Simone is French. She hates everything.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 10](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **TASMANIANRED**

The timing of these allegations are soooo suspicious. A transparent attempt to embarass former President Clinton just before he gives his comeback speech at the Democratic National Convention

in Boston. No doubt the vast right wing conspiracy will try to draw parallels between a little recreational sex done by the former president in the oval office and this dentist in his office. </sarcasm>

13 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:47:08 PM by **Vigilanteman** (crime would drop like a sprung trapdoor if we brought back good old-fashioned hangings)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 4](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

Hall's lawyers say the dentist has been falsely accused by disgruntled former employees... Wait, wait, wait. Time out on the field. At what were they disgruntled and at what point did they become "former" employees?

14 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:47:19 PM by **Texas Eagle** (If it wasn't for double-standards, Liberals would have no standards at all)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

Filling? Cavity? Spit? Gargle? There's just too much to work with here.

In all candor, I find this most disturbing.

15 posted on 7/25/2004, 9:53:12 PM by **Senator Pardek**

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **oust the louse**

ewwww, but its cool that a fellow Macleod called him out! :)

17 posted on 7/25/2004, 10:05:03 PM by **MacDorcha**

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **BraveMan**

I see he does "sedation dentistry"

You'll be sedated just enough to be unaware of the treatment, as if you were snoozing. You'll wake up refreshed, with little or no memory of what was accomplished.

Can you imagine what this freak does while you are sedated in this chair. ~shudder~

18 posted on 7/25/2004, 10:12:57 PM by **Jeff Gordon** (LWS - Legislating While Stupid. Someone should make this illegal.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 16](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Stew Padasso**

Now I tell you what...this just ain't right.

Its time to bring back horse-whippin'. And this qualifies.

19 posted on 7/25/2004, 10:13:34 PM by **Khurkris** (Proud Scottish/HillBilly - We perfected "The Art of the Grudge")

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

The Dentist Who Injected Semen into Patients' Mouths Tried to Reopen His Clinic in Belize

Dr. John Hall was jailed for injecting semen into his patients' mouths in 2005. But last month, he nearly reopened a practice in Belize.



By Nathaniel Janowitz

January 7, 2016, 4:55pm

Dr. John Hall was the kind of dentist who could inspire horror films. He had developed a reputation in his office in Cornelius, North Carolina for experimenting with unconventional treatments. One day, during a routine visit, he told a patient that he was "going to put something in her mouth that would taste funny, but would stop the bleeding." Then he used a syringe to inject the fluid and told her to swallow it. That fluid was semen.

This was not the first time Dr. Hall had injected his own semen into his patients' mouths. Two of his employees had begun collecting suspicious syringes left in his office after they overheard the doctor telling patients to swallow something and at least one female patient objected to doing so, on the grounds that the liquid he was preparing to inject "smelled like sperm."

When Dr. Hall was eventually brought to court—for violating dentistry's standard of care, engaging in immoral conduct, and seven misdemeanor counts of sexual assault—six former patients provided testimonies about how the doctor had incorporated his semen into their dental visits. Another woman also alleged that Dr. Hall had pounced on her in the dental chair and began to "gyrate against her lower body in a sexual manner." The police had confiscated syringes from Dr. Hall's office, which DNA tests proved had traces of his semen in them. The issue of whether or not his homemade remedy did, in fact, stop oral bleeding was never made clear, to the dismay of frat boys around the world.

All of this is to say that a dentist like Dr. Hall should not be in practice. After he pleaded guilty to the charges in 2005, he spent four months in Mecklenburg County jail and had his dentistry license permanently revoked—which is still a pretty sweet deal for making multiple patients swallow a load while in his dentist's chair.

"How in the world can he just walk away from this? There's no justice in this," said Lisa Carpenter, one of his victims at the time, referring to his light sentence. Jail time notwithstanding, at least Dr. Hall would never practice dentistry again.

But early last month, on the island of San Pedro in Belize, Dr. Hall came dangerously close to opening a new clinic before police ultimately discovered his seedy past.

San Pedro is probably best known as the inspiration for the Madonna track, "La Isla Bonita," and a violent feud between the Bloods and the Crips. It's a popular tourist destination for those looking to unwind in the idyllic landscape and blue-green waters, but it's also a poor country with a history of corruption. On November 18, 2015, Dr. Hall ran an advertisement in the local Belizean newspaper, The San Pedro Sun, searching for a dental assistant. It was the first in a series of ads—first soliciting office space and staff, then advertising the grand opening of his new practice, The Oceanside Dental Clinic.

Even without knowing his nefarious past, Tamara Sniffin, editor of the *San Pedro Sun*, told VICE the advertisements seemed suspicious. "We did wonder how he had obtained a license to practice [dentistry], as traditionally this is a painstaking, lengthy process that discourages many foreigners from even trying," said Sniffin.

Even if you're licensed in another country, getting a license to practice abroad is a bureaucratic and often laborious process. Practitioners first need to secure a work permit, then send in their license from their home country, along with paperwork like university transcripts, board exam scores, and recommendation letters. According to ex-pat blogs on the topic, the process can take many months and the government has a "protectionist attitude" toward reserving high-paying jobs for Belizean citizens. So when Sniffin saw the ads from an American doctor opening his dentistry practice in San Pedro, she found it unusual.

As it turns out, though, Dr. Hall *did* have a license to practice in Belize. He'd received a work permit under his real name, but before he applied for a Belizean dentistry license, he had to get his highly-Googleable semen incident behind him. So instead of using his legal name (John Robert Hall) he came up with a cleverly devised pseudonym, Robert Bob Hall (or if shortened, Bob Bob Hall). Within weeks, the Medical Council of Belize had issued a Belizean dentistry license to Dr. Robert Bob Hall.

It's not entirely clear how this happened. As Sniffin pointed out, it's unusual for foreigners to have work permits and licenses processed so easily, and while Dr. Hall's license was issued under his fake name, his passport and work permit listed his real name. Still, receiving falsely-issued documents from the Belizean government isn't unheard of: A few years ago, immigration officials in the country—including the Minister of State in the Immigration Ministry—were found to be selling Belizean passports. As the grand opening of Dr. Hall's new clinic loomed, Sniffin—the newspaper editor—began receiving emails from concerned residents, linking to news articles about Hall's 2005 conviction. She told me she forwarded the well-documented evidence of Dr. Hall's crimes to the Ministry of Health, but received no response. So she took matters into her own hands.

"On the morning of [December] 7, I went to the San Pedro Police Department, armed with a folder full of printed articles and info on the deviant, disgusting behavior of Dr. Hall," Sniffin told me. "There was no way in hell I was going to let that pervert touch one person on this island and I thank those who brought it to our attention and worked with us on shutting this creep down."

After receiving the information, Assistant Superintendent Henry Jemmott, Commander of the San Pedro Police, arrested Dr. Hall for "making false representation"—just hours prior to the opening of his new dentistry clinic.

"The people of San Pedro are angry at the Belize Medical Council for overlooking the mistake with the name," Jemmott told me, "but my people are glad that it's been brought to light."

Dr. Hall has been released after posting bail and wrote a 1,400-word manifesto, where he claims he came to Belize "to help the local people with free dentistry" and insists his innocence in the 2004 semen crimes.

"I never thought I would be ridiculed, cussed at, and made fun of with harmful threats to me and my dog based on assumptions instead of facts," wrote Dr. Hall in his manifesto. "When I was accused of a disgusting and absurd action of placing semen in patient's mouths. I did not do what I was accused of doing!"

As of now, Dr. Hall is awaiting trial in San Pedro. He's had his travel documents confiscated by the authorities and is said to be keeping a low-profile on the island until his February 12 court date. Weirdly, the sign for the Oceanside Dental Clinic is still up on the building—an eerie reminder of the semen-squirting dentist who almost was.

Follow Nathaniel Janowitz on [Twitter](#).