



BOARD OF DENTISTRY

312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 101
Louisville, Kentucky 40222
Phone: (502) 429-7280
Fax: (502) 429-7282
<http://dentistry.ky.gov>

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jeffrey Allen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ADVISORY OPINION 25-02

Nov. 8, 2025

Re: Tooth Gem Application

The Kentucky Board of Dentistry (the "Board") has received your request for an Advisory Opinion dated August 29, 2025. In accordance with KRS 313.021, the Board of Dentistry is authorized to issue advisory opinions related to KRS Chapter 313 (the "Dental Practice Act") and its associated regulations. Additionally, the Board has the authority to issue Opinions pursuant to KRS 13A.130(3) and 13A.010(2)(b) as the agency with jurisdiction to interpret the statutes and administrative regulations governing the practice of dentistry in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A review of KRS Chapter 313 and the administrative regulations promulgated thereunder, in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A, has resulted in the ruling established herein.

On Nov. 8, 2025, the Board addressed your request for the Board's Opinion on "whether gluing gems to teeth is considered a dental procedure and should require licensed dental staff to perform."

KRS 313.010(11) defines "dentistry" as "the evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, or surgical, nonsurgical, or related treatment of diseases, disorders, or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area, or the adjacent and associated structures and their impact on the human body. . . ." The statute further provides that an individual shall be regarded as practicing dentistry if they perform or advertise "dental operations of any kind," or if the individual "diagnoses or treats disorders, or deficiencies of the oral cavity and adjacent associated structures. . . ." KRS 313.010(11).

Gluing tooth gems to teeth constitutes a "related treatment" of a condition of the oral cavity, as it involves the use of bonding materials to apply decorative gems to the tooth surface, and

in some cases, may require removal of enamel. When not properly applied or maintained, tooth gems can contribute to “deficiencies of the oral cavity and adjacent associated structures,” such as enamel damage or gum inflammation. Accordingly, the Board is of the opinion that the application of tooth gems is a procedure that must be performed by licensed dental staff.

In conclusion, in response to your request for the Board’s Opinion, **gluing tooth gems to teeth falls within the definition of “dentistry” under KRS 313.010 and is thus considered a dental procedure that may only be performed by individuals licensed under the provisions of KRS Chapter 313.** Nothing in this ruling shall be construed to exclude a dentist from providing a professional standard of care and practicing within the scope of his or her license. Therefore, any dentist who fails to provide a professional standard of care or practices beyond the scope of his or her license may be disciplined by the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Allen
Executive Director
Kentucky Board of Dentistry