

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

KENTUCKY BOARD OF DENTISTRY

COMPLAINANT

v.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

HAROLD T. WILKERSON

RESPONDENT

(LICENSE #3792)

*** **

Whereas, the Law Enforcement Committee ("LEC") of the Kentucky Board of Dentistry ("Board") having issued an Immediate Temporary Suspension (ITS) against Dr. Harold Wilkerson ("Respondent"), and the LEC of the Board having conducted an investigation and review of all applicable records, and otherwise being sufficiently advised, it is hereby stipulated and agreed between the parties that this matter shall be settled and resolved upon the following terms:

LICENSE AND STATUS

1. Respondent hereby acknowledges the following violations:

- Failure to use gloves in situations involving possible contact with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or other potentially infectious materials.
- Failure to use a chemical indicator inside each sterile pack,
- Failure to label sterile packs with the sterilizer used, the cycle or load number, and date of sterilization,
- Failure to use a biological indicator (i.e., spore test) at least weekly, and

- Failure to heat-sterilize dental hand pieces and other devices not permanently attached to air and waterlines.

2. In resolution of this matter and for removal of the pending ITS, Respondent agrees to the following terms and conditions:

- To provide the Board with spore test results for six weeks following signing of the order as well as at any point in the future upon request, and
- To comply with the CDC's Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings, specifically:
 - Wear PPE in all patient encounters that involve potential contact with infectious substances,
 - Utilize chemical indicators and appropriately label each sterile pack,
 - Utilize a spore test at least weekly, and
 - Heat-sterilize dental hand pieces and other devices.

3. Should Respondent fail to comply with any of these requirements, his license may be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the LEC;

4. All of the foregoing shall be at the Respondent's costs and all terms/conditions of this settlement agreement are and shall be reportable to the National Practitioner's Data Base (NPDB).

VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF RIGHTS

5. The Respondent has had the opportunity at all times to seek the advice from competent counsel of choice. No coercion has been exerted upon the Respondent, nor have any promises been made other than those reflected in this agreement. The Respondent has freely and voluntarily entered into this agreement, motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein. The Respondent has executed this Settlement Agreement only after carefully reading it and developing a full understanding of all of its terms.

6. The Respondent is fully aware of the Respondent's rights to contest charges in a formal hearing. These rights include: representation by an attorney at the Respondent's own expense, the right to a public hearing on any charges or allegations filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against the Respondent, the right to present evidence on the Respondent's own behalf, the right to compulsory process to secure the attendance of such witnesses, the right to testify on the Respondent's own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision on the merits of the charges, the right to obtain judicial review of the Board's decision, and the right to appeal any final order of the Board to the Circuit Court of the county in which the Board met as otherwise allowed by KRS 313.090(19).

7. All of these rights are being voluntarily waived by the Respondent in exchange for acceptance of this Settlement Agreement.

USE OF THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

8. In the event that the Respondent commits any further violations of the Board's regulations or commits a substantial violation of the terms of this Agreement, the Board may initiate new charges against the Respondent and treat this Settlement Agreement as disciplinary action for purposes of deciding the appropriate sanction for the new violations.

JURISDICTION

9. The Respondent acknowledges that the Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the conduct that has precipitated this Settlement Agreement.

10. The Respondent acknowledges that the Board retains jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement Agreement have been met to the satisfaction of the Board.

PUBLICATION OF SETTLEMENT

11. The Respondent acknowledges that, once signed by the parties, this Settlement Agreement may be considered a public document, available for inspection at any time by any member of the public under the Kentucky Open Records Act. Further, the Respondent understands that the Board is free to make any use of the contents of this agreement as it deems appropriate. Such uses shall include, but not be limited to, publishing the Agreement on the Board website.

ENFORCEMENT OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

12. The Respondent expressly understands that failure to comply with and complete all terms of this Settlement Agreement constitutes an immediate danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public for which the Board, its Law Enforcement Committee, or its Executive Director, may issue an immediate, temporary suspension of the Respondent's dental license, and a fine of not less than \$500.00 as administrative costs of the Board, prior to a full complaint hearing, with the right of the Respondent to appeal such emergency action as provided under KRS 13B.125.

13. If the Respondent commits a substantial violation of the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Board may prosecute the charges against the Respondent that are resolved by this Settlement Agreement.

14. The Respondent agrees to indemnify the Board for any costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred in enforcing this Settlement Agreement if the Board or a court determines, after notice and opportunity to be heard, that the Respondent has failed substantially to comply with any provision of this Settlement Agreement.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

15. In consideration of execution of this Settlement, the Respondent for the Respondent personally, the Respondent's executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, hereby releases and forever discharges the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Board of Dentistry, and the Kentucky Attorney General, and each of their members, agents, and employees in their individual and representative capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims, and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, in law or equity, that the Respondent ever had, now has, may have, or claim to have against any or all of the persons or entities named in this paragraph arising out of or by reason of this investigation, this disciplinary action, and this Settlement of its administration.

16. The Board agrees that it will not initiate any charges, known or unknown at this time, against Respondent based on Respondent's actions or a failure to act prior to the signing of this Settlement Agreement.

COOPERATION WITH THE BOARD

17. The Respondent agrees to cooperate with the actions of the Board, its members, agents, and employees to monitor the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

18. It is hereby agreed between the parties that this Settlement Agreement shall be effective upon signing both parties.

19. The parties agree that the Board's Executive Director, on behalf of the LEC, can sign this Agreement pursuant to the authority granted in KRS 313.090(10).

20. This Settlement Agreement embodies the entire agreement between the Board and the Respondent. This Settlement Agreement shall constitute a binding contract between the Respondent and the Board. This Settlement Agreement may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of both parties.

HAVE SEEN, UNDERSTOOD, AGREED TO, and APPROVED:



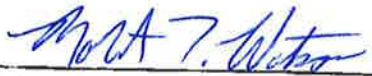
Dr. Harold Wilkerson
Respondent

Date: 12/6/24



Jeffrey Allen, Executive Director
Kentucky Board of Dentistry

Date: 12/09/2024



Robert T. Watson
Attorney for Kentucky Board of Dentistry

Date: 12/9/2024