

## INQUIRY COMMITTEE RECORD OF DECISION

**FILE NAME: DH0554**

### **FACTS**

In September 2005 the Registrar received a complaint from the employer of a registrant of the College. The employer advised of concern for the registrant's ability to practice hygiene. The concerns related to "substance abuse and the registrant's ability to treat patients safely and the quality of care being performed."

The employer stated that a patient had accused the registrant of drinking alcohol prior to [the patient's] hygiene appointment and that the registrant "fell asleep" during scaling of teeth; the patient had also complained about the quality of treatment received and fear for other patients receiving treatment. The employer also advised of concern from another patient on the same day regarding quality of cleaning performed.

As directed by the Inquiry Committee, the Registrar investigated the complainant's allegations. The investigation comprised of:

- Clarification and elaboration of the elements of complaint, through telephone discussions and interviews between the employer and the Inspector;
- Interviews with the registrant;
- Interviews with the registrant's co-workers;
- Discussions with the registrant's clients;
- Discussion with the registrant's medical practitioner;
- Review of several documents from the registrant's personnel file in the employer's office.

The investigation indicated that the registrant has physical ailments which have impeded the registrant's ability to practice dental hygiene.

After being informed of the investigation, the registrant requested a change in registration status with the College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia which therefore resulted in Non-Practicing Registration status.

### **COMMITTEE DECISION**

Following investigation of the complaint the committee resolved, in accordance with section 36(1)(d) of the *Health Professions Act*, to request that the registrant undertake not to return to Full Registration status until such time as the registrant was able to comply with stipulations set by the Inquiry Committee. The Committee requested the undertaking and it was accepted by the registrant.

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**RELEVANT PROVISION OF ACT, REGULATION, OR BYLAWS:** HPA, sections 32(2); 33(6)(a); 36(1)(d)

**STATUS:** Closed

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:** *Health Professions Act*, s. 32, 33, 36