

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT: CASE 25-08

Summary of Investigation and Resolution

The Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) investigated concerns regarding the provision of dental hygiene services, including orofacial myofunctional therapy (OMT), without compliance with section 25(3) of *The Dental Disciplines Act*.

The investigation determined that a registrant began providing dental hygiene services related to OMT through a privately operated business arrangement in July 2025. These services included assessments, measurements, photographs, and treatment planning. The investigation further determined that a required contractual arrangement with a dentist was not established until October 17, 2025.

During the investigation, the registrant acknowledged misunderstanding the legislative requirements and initially believed that a dentist contract was only necessary to obtain a Unique Identification Number (UIN). The registrant accepted responsibility for practicing without the required contractual arrangement in place.

The PCC identified concerns regarding the registrant's understanding of the distinction between the role of a professional association and the role of a regulatory body. In particular, the Committee noted that the UIN referenced by the registrant was associated with a membership-based professional association process and did not constitute regulatory authorization to practice independently or determine compliance with legislative requirements under *The Dental Disciplines Act*. The PCC considered this misunderstanding significant, as registrants are individually responsible for ensuring their practice complies with all legislative and regulatory requirements.

The PCC determined that the conduct constituted non-compliance with section 25(3) of *The Dental Disciplines Act* and reflected a misunderstanding of professional obligations as a regulated health professional. The Committee noted that legislative compliance is an essential safeguard intended to ensure accountability and maintain public confidence in the profession.

In resolving the matter, the PCC considered the registrant's cooperation throughout the investigation, acknowledgement of responsibility, and expressed remorse. The matter was resolved by way of a Dispute Resolution Agreement requiring:

- Completion of a professional accountability course;
- Submission of a written report demonstrating understanding of the distinction between a professional association and a regulatory body;

- Retention of a written reprimand on the registrant's file; and
- Publication of this redacted summary report.

During the investigation, the PCC also reviewed the involvement of the owner/operator of the business through which the services were provided. Following review of information received, the PCC issued a caution letter emphasizing the importance of legislative compliance by all registrants providing dental hygiene services, regardless of how services are described.

The PCC notes that legislative and regulatory requirements governing the practice of dental hygiene exist to support accountability, oversight, and public confidence in the profession.