

**INQUIRY COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DECISION**

File Reference: DH1804

ELEMENTS OF COMPLAINT

On April 24, 2018, the College received a complaint alleging that a Registrant had engaged in unethical conduct with the Complainant by advising that s/he was a dentist in addition to being a dental hygienist.

The CDHBC Inquiry Committee initiated an investigation under s. 33(1) of the *Health Professions Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 183 (the "Act") and appointed an inspector to assist with the investigation.

On May 14, 2018, the CDHBC Registrar notified the Registrant of the investigation and requested the Registrant's response to the investigation, in accordance with s. 33(5) of the Act.

On May 29, 2018, the College received the Registrant's written response to the investigation, a copy of which was provided to the Complainant. The Registrant provided a copy of the Complainant's clinical chart, including radiographs and periodontal assessment. The Registrant acknowledged that when asked by the Complainant if s/he was a dental hygienist or dentist, s/he responded with "both." The Registrant further explained that s/he is an internationally trained dentist; however, is not licensed as a dentist in Canada. The Registrant stated that s/he did not introduce him/herself as a dentist, and that his/her name tag clearly states his/her name and position of "Registered Dental Hygienist."

On July 9, 2018, a College staff member spoke with the Complainant, who advised that s/he had reviewed the Registrant's written response and had no further comments to add. The Complainant also advised that s/he was satisfied that the College was now aware that the Registrant made the misleading statements and didn't feel that any further action was needed.

COMMITTEE DECISION

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Inquiry Committee concluded that there was insufficient bases for taking regulatory action against the Registrant, as s/he clearly identified him/herself as a registered dental hygienist with his/her name tag. A registrant who is qualified in another health profession in another jurisdiction may indicate that he or she holds those qualifications. However, a registrant in that situation should indicate that he or she is not licensed in this jurisdiction.

In accordance with section 33(6)(a) of the Act, the Inquiry Committee determined to take no further action; however, the Inquiry Committee cautioned the Registrant that s/he must ensure that in the future s/he clearly states that s/he is not licensed to practice dentistry in British Columbia when s/he advises patients that s/he is both a dentist and a dental hygienist until such time that s/he is registered to practice dentistry by the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia.

RELEVANT PROVISION OF ACT, REGULATION OR BYLAWS

Act, sections 33(1); 33(5); 33(6)(a)

STATUS: Closed.