

<p>Initial Licensure Examination Requirements</p>	<p>The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama currently accepts the following regional exams: ADEX (CDCA-WREB-CITA), CRDTS, and SRTA. Both mannequin and patient-based portions are accepted. In order to apply for this method of licensure, you must have successfully passed a regional examination within the five (5) years immediately preceding the date on your application. Source: Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama Licensure Applications</p>
<p>General Licensure Requirements</p>	<p>Code of Alabama § 34-9-10. Application (a) Every person who desires to practice dentistry within the State of Alabama shall file an application prescribed by the board. Notwithstanding the method of obtaining licensure or any particular requirement set forth herein, every person as a prerequisite to licensure shall be at least 19 years of age, of good moral character, a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and a graduate of a dental school or college accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation and approved by the board and shall satisfy any other requirement set forth in any rule adopted by the board. (b) Licensure by examination shall be applicable to the following categories: (1) Those individuals who have never been licensed or taken an examination and whose application to take an examination administered or approved by the board is received by the board within 18 months of graduation from dental school or completion of an accredited or approved post-doctoral residency program. (2) Those individuals who have successfully passed an examination approved but not administered by the board so long as an application for licensure is received by the board within five years of the date of notification of passing such examination. All applicants shall pay a fee which shall accompany the application. § 34-9-11. Examination of applicants; issuance of licenses. When an application and accompanying proof as required under this chapter are found satisfactory, the board shall notify the applicant to appear for examination at a time and place to be fixed by the board, and each applicant shall be examined and graded by number in lieu of name. All examinations provided for in this chapter shall be approved by the board and shall be of the type and character as to test the qualifications of the applicant to practice dentistry. Provided, however, the board may recognize any written parts of an examination given by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations in lieu of or subject to the board examinations as the board may approve. Those found qualified by the board, consistent with Section 34-9-10(a), shall be granted a license and a license certificate which shall bear a serial number, the full name of the licensee, the date of issuance, and the seal of the board, and shall be signed by each member of the board. Alabama Rules 270-X-2.01 Education Requirements for Examination-Dentists. (1) Pre-Dental. A minimum of three (3) years academic study of ninety (90) semester hours or its equivalent. This will include a minimum of: Biology.....8 hours Chemistry.....16 hours Physics.....8 hours Mathematics.....6 hours Non-Science.....30 hours (12 of which must be English or its equivalent) (2) Must be a graduate of a school or college of dentistry approved by the Board.</p>

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	<p>(3) Must successfully complete the National Board Dental Examination Parts one (1) and two (2), or the Integrated National Board Dental Examination, administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.</p> <p>(4) A person's failure to satisfy subsection (1) above shall not prevent that person from taking the dental licensure examination provided for in the Alabama Dental Practice Act, Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-1, et seq., provided that person has satisfied the requirements of subsection (2) above.</p> <p>270-X-2-.02 Applications For Dental License, Qualifications Of Applicants And Licensing Of Persons Licensed In Other States.</p> <p>(1) All applicants for dental examination must file his/her application, giving first, middle and last name, and all credentials pertaining to the examination, along with examination fee and certificate fee in an amount set forth in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-16, with the secretary-treasurer not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the examination</p> <p>(2) Applications not complete with all credentials or received after the closing dates will be returned or rejected.</p> <p>(3) Fees are not refundable.</p> <p>(4) All applicants for licensure shall also comply with the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-10.</p> <p>270-X-2-.05 Examination Rules And Issuance Of Licenses.</p> <p>(1) No person other than Examiners and applicants for licensure shall be present in the rooms when and where examinations, either written, clinical or laboratory procedures are being conducted except by permission of examiner in charge.</p> <p>(2) Any applicant found guilty of receiving or giving aid during the theoretical, operative, clinical, or prosthetic laboratory examination will be dismissed. Dismissal will constitute a failure.</p> <p>(3) No smoking is allowed during examinations.</p> <p>(4) Examination paper will be furnished by the Board. No other paper of any kind, or textbooks, will be allowed in the examination room unless approved by the examiner in charge.</p> <p>(5) All written examinations must be written in the English language.</p> <p>(6) Board members are not permitted to interview applicants who have failed the examination. All such matters shall be directed to the secretary-treasurer in writing by the applicant.</p> <p>(7) Board members are not permitted to disclose grades made by any applicant to anyone other than the applicant.</p> <p>(8) When an applicant for licensure successfully passes the written or clinical examination, that passing grade shall carry over and be valid only until the next available examination.</p> <p>(9) In addition, examinations shall be conducted and licenses issued in compliance with Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-11.</p>
<p>License by Credential/ Endorsement Requirements</p>	<p><u>Code of Alabama § 34-9-10. Application; licensure by credentials; special purpose license.</u></p> <p>(c) Any applicant who possesses a current license in any state, who has passed an examination approved by the board, and who has, since graduation from dental or dental hygiene school, practiced or participated in a clinical residency or practiced dentistry or dental hygiene in the Armed Forces or with the public health service shall be eligible for licensure if his or her application is received by the board within five years of the completion of the subject residency or Armed Forces or public health service commitment. (d) Licensure by credentials may be utilized to evaluate the theoretical knowledge and clinical skill of a dentist or dental hygienist when an applicant for licensure by credentials holds a dental or dental hygiene license in another state. The board may adopt rules relating to</p>

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	<p>licensure by credentials in addition to any requirements by law. The dentist or dental hygienist applicant for licensure by credentials shall satisfy all of the following: (1) Has been engaged in the active practice of clinical dentistry or clinical dental hygiene or in full-time dental or dental hygiene education for the five years or 5,000 hours immediately preceding his or her application. (2) Holds a current, valid, unrevoked, and unexpired license in a state having examination standards regarded by the board as an equivalent to the Alabama standards. (3) Is licensed in good standing without any restrictions, as verified by the board of examiners in the state of current practice. (4) Is not the subject of a pending disciplinary action in any state in which he or she has been licensed as verified by a query to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Health Integrity Protection Data Bank, the American Association of Dental Boards Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, or any other pertinent bank currently existing or which may exist in the future. 17 (5) Provides a written statement agreeing to be interviewed at the request of the board. (6) Passes a written jurisprudence examination. (7) Is certified by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and from the state board of any state in which he or she is or has been licensed that the DEA registration is not the subject of any pending disciplinary action or enforcement proceeding of any kind. (8)a. Submits affidavits as a dentist applicant from two licensed dentists practicing in the same geographical area where he or she is then practicing or teaching attesting to his or her moral character, standing, and ability of the applicant. b. Submits affidavits as a dental hygienist applicant from two licensed dentists or two licensed dental hygienists, or any combination of two thereof, practicing in the same geographical area where he or she is then practicing or teaching, attesting to his or her moral character, standing, and ability. (9) Provides the board with an official transcript with school seal from the school of dentistry or school of dental hygiene that issued his or her professional degree, or executes a request and authorization allowing the board to obtain the transcript. (10) Is a graduate of a dental or dental hygiene school, college, or educational program approved by the board. (11) Is not the subject of any pending or final action from any hospital revoking, suspending, limiting, modifying, or interfering with any clinical or staff privileges. (12) Has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or of any law dealing with the administering or dispensing of legend drugs, including controlled substances. (13) Any other criteria required by the board by rule, including, but not limited to, any of the following: a. Questioning under oath. b. Results of peer review reports from constituent dental societies or federal dental services. c. Substance abuse testing or treatment. d. Background checks for criminal or fraudulent activities. e. Participation in continuing education. f. A current certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. g. Recent case reports or oral defense of diagnosis and treatment plans. 18 h. Proof of no physical or psychological impairment that would adversely affect the ability to practice dentistry or dental hygiene with reasonable skill and safety. i. An agreement to initiate practice within the State of Alabama within a period of one year. j. Proof of professional liability coverage and that coverage has not been refused, declined, canceled, nonrenewed, or modified. k. Whether the applicant has been subject to any final disciplinary action in any state in which he or she has been licensed which shall be verified by a query in the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Health Integrity Protection Data Bank, the American Association of Dental Boards Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, any state where the applicant has been licensed, or any other pertinent bank currently existing or which may exist in the future. l. Whether the applicant's DEA registration or any state controlled substances permit has ever</p>
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	<p>been revoked, suspended, modified, restricted, or limited in any way. Provided, however, that any discipline that results only from a failure to timely renew a registration or permit shall not prevent him or her from being eligible for this method of licensure. (e) If all criteria and requirements are satisfied and the board determines, after notice and a hearing, that the applicant committed fraud or in any way falsified any information in the application process, the license may be revoked by the board. (f) In addition to the requirements for applicants seeking licensure by credentials, an applicant desiring to practice a specialty only shall satisfy the following requirements: (1) The specialty shall be one in a branch of dentistry approved by the board. (2) The applicant shall satisfy the existing educational requirements and standards set forth by the board for that approved specialty. (3) An applicant who chooses to announce or practice a specialty shall limit his or her practice exclusively to the announced special area or areas of dental practice. (4) If an applicant who is initially licensed by credentials for a specialty practice decides to renounce his or her specialty and practice general dentistry and the license originally issued did not require a general dental license but rather a specialty license, or if the applicant originally passed only a specialty examination, the applicant may not practice general dentistry until he or she successfully passes the board's regular general dentistry examination. However, if the applicant passed a general dentistry examination or holds a general dentistry license and practices a specialty, then decides not to continue that specialty but to practice only general dentistry, the applicant is eligible for licensure by credentials as a general dentist. (g)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the board shall issue a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines to an applicant who has met the following requirements: a. Holds a full and unrestricted license to practice dentistry in any state of the United States or in territories, other than the State of Alabama, in which the applicant is licensed. 19 b. Has not had any disciplinary action or other action taken against him or her by any state or licensing jurisdiction. If there has been previous disciplinary or other action taken against the applicant, the board may issue a certificate of qualification if it finds that the previous disciplinary or other action indicates that the dentist is not a potential threat to the public. c. Submits an application and an application fee for a certificate of qualification for a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines on a form provided by the board and pays a fee upon certification. All required fees shall be established by the board. (2) A special purpose license issued by the board to practice dentistry across state lines limits the licensee solely to the practice of dentistry across state lines. The special purpose license shall be valid for a period of up to three years, shall expire on a renewal date determined by the board, and may be renewed upon receipt of a renewal fee as established by the board. Failure to renew a license according to the renewal schedule established by the board shall cause the special purpose license to be inactive. An applicant may reapply for a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines following placement of the license on inactive status. The applicant shall meet the qualifications of subdivision (1) in order to be eligible for renewal of the license. (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the board shall only issue a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines to an applicant whose principal practice location and license to practice are located in a state or territory of the United States whose laws permit or allow for the issuance of a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines or similar license to a dentist whose principal practice location and license are located in another state. It is the stated intent of this section that dentists who hold a full and current license authorizing him or her to practice in the State of</p>
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	<p>Alabama shall be afforded the opportunity to obtain a reciprocal license to practice dentistry across state lines in any other state or territory of the United States as a precondition to the issuance of a special purpose license as authorized by this section to a dentist licensed in the other state or territory. The board shall determine which states or territories have reciprocal licensure requirements meeting the qualifications of this section. (h) Any applicant who does not qualify for licensure pursuant to any of the above subsections but who has passed an out-of-state examination approved by the board and possesses a license in good standing authorizing the applicant to practice in the state of issuance is eligible to apply for licensure upon payment of a fee established by the board. The board shall have discretion whether to require an examination for the applicant, including the time, place, type, and content of the examination.</p> <p>Alabama Administrative Code 270-X-2.19: Licensure by Credentials.</p> <p>(1) Definitions: The following definitions shall apply to these rules: (a) LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. Licensure by credentials is to be used to evaluate the theoretical knowledge and clinical skill of a dentist/dental hygienist when an applicant holds a dental/dental hygienist license in another state, (b) BOARD. Board shall mean the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. (c) ACT. Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-1 et seq.</p> <p>(2) To be eligible for licensure by credentials in the State of Alabama, the applicant shall meet the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-10 and this Rule, which are as follows: (a) The dentist/dental hygienist must have been engaged in the active practice of clinical dentistry/clinical dental hygiene or in full time dental/dental hygiene education for the five (5) years or five thousand (5,000) hours immediately preceding their application. (b) The applicant must hold a current, valid, unrevoked, and unexpired license in a state having examination standards regarded by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama as an equivalent to the Alabama standards. For purposes of this requirement, these exam standards shall include passing the National Board Dental Examination Parts one (1) and two (2), or the Integrated National Board Dental Examination, administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations. (c) The Board of Examiners in the state of current practice shall verify or endorse that the applicant's license is in good standing without any restrictions. (d) The dentist/dental hygienist must not be the subject of a pending disciplinary action in any state in which the individual has been licensed which shall be verified through inquiry to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the health Integrity Protection Data Bank, the American Association of Dental Boards Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, or any other pertinent Bank currently existing or which may exist in the future. (e) The applicant shall provide a written statement agreeing to be interviewed at the request of the Board. (f) The applicant must successfully pass a written jurisprudence examination. (g) There shall be certification from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and from the State board of any state in which the applicant is or has been licensed that the DEA registration is not the subject of any pending disciplinary action or enforcement of any kind, or that any state controlled substances permit has not been revoked, suspended, modified restricted or limited in any way. (h) The applicant must submit affidavits from two (2) licensed dentists/dental hygienists practicing in the same geographical area where the applicant currently is practicing or teaching attesting to the applicant's moral character, standing, and ability. (i) The applicant must provide the Board with and official transcript with school seal from the school of dentistry/dental hygiene which issued the applicant's professional degree or execute a request and authorization allowing the board to obtain the transcript. (j) The applicant must</p>
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	<p>be a graduate of a dental/dental hygiene school, college or educational program approved by the board. (k) The applicant must not be the subject of any pending or final action from any hospital revoking, suspending, limiting, modifying, or interfering with any clinical or staff privileges. (l) The applicant must not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or of any law dealing with the administering or dispensing of legend drugs, including controlled substances. (m) The Board may consider or require other criteria including, but not limited to, any of the following: 1. Questioning. 2. Results of peer review reports from constituent dental societies or federal dental services. 3. Substance abuse testing or treatment. 4. Background checks for criminal or fraudulent activities. 5. Participation in continuing education. 6. A current certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. 7. Recent case reports or oral defense of diagnosis and treatment plans. 8. Proof of no physical or psychological impairment that would adversely affect the ability to practice dentistry/dental hygiene with reasonable skill and safety. 9. Proof of professional liability coverage and that coverage has not been refused, declined, cancelled, non-renewed, or modified. 10. Whether the applicant has been subject to any final disciplinary action in any state in which the individual has been licensed which shall be verified by a query in the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Health Integrity Protection Databank, the American Association of Dental Examiners Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, any state where the applicant has been licensed, or any other pertinent bank currently existing or which may exist in the future. 11. Whether the applicant's DEA registration or any state-controlled substances permit has ever been revoked, suspended, modified, restricted, or limited in any way. Provided, however, that any discipline that results only from a failure to timely renew a registration or permit shall not prevent an applicant from being eligible for this method of licensure. 12. Denial of any professional license or denial of the opportunity to take a dental/dental hygiene exam. (n) If all criteria and requirements are satisfied and the Board determines, after notice and hearing, that the individual committed fraud or in any way falsified any information in the application process, the Board may impose disciplinary sanctions allowed by the provisions of the Act.</p>
<p>Specialty Practice</p>	<p><u>Code of Alabama § 34-9-10. Application; licensure by credentials; special purpose license.</u> (D)(13)(f) In addition to the requirements for applicants seeking licensure by credentials, an applicant desiring to practice a specialty only shall satisfy the following requirements: (1) The specialty shall be one in a branch of dentistry approved by the board. (2) The applicant shall satisfy the existing educational requirements and standards set forth by the board for that approved specialty. (3) An applicant who chooses to announce or practice a specialty shall limit his or her practice exclusively to the announced special area or areas of dental practice. (4) If an applicant who is initially licensed by credentials for a specialty practice decides to renounce his or her specialty and practice general dentistry and the license originally issued did not require a general dental license but rather a specialty license, or if the applicant originally passed only a specialty examination, the applicant may not practice general dentistry until he or she successfully passes the board's regular general dentistry examination. However, if the applicant passed a general dentistry examination or holds a general dentistry license and practices a specialty, then decides not to continue that specialty but to practice only general dentistry, the applicant is eligible for licensure by credentials as a general dentist.</p>

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<p>Advertising</p>	<p><u>Code of Alabama § 34-9-19. Advertising -- Dentist; specialty requirements; practice emphasis; purpose of section; rules and regulations.</u></p> <p>(a) For the purpose of this section, the following terms shall have the respective meanings:</p> <p>(1) ADVERTISEMENT. An advertisement is information communicated in a manner designed to attract public attention to the practice of a dentist as heretofore defined.</p> <p>(2) DENTIST. Any person licensed to practice dentistry in this state pursuant to this chapter or any entity authorized by law which is formed for the purpose of practicing dentistry.</p> <p>(3) FALSE. A false statement or claim is one which:</p> <p>a. Contains a material misrepresentation of fact or law.</p> <p>b. Omits a material fact rendering the statement or claim when considered as a whole false.</p> <p>(b) A dentist shall have ultimate responsibility for all advertisements which are approved by him or her or his or her agents or associates and the dentist shall be responsible for the following:</p> <p>(1) Broadcast advertisements shall be recorded, approved by the dentist, and a recording of the actual transmission shall be retained by the dentist for one year following the final appearance or use of the advertisement. The dentist is responsible for making copies of the advertisement available to the board within 10 days following a request by the board.</p> <p>(2) Written or printed advertisements shall be approved by the dentist and a copy of the publication in which the advertisement is displayed shall be retained by the dentist for one year following the final appearance or use of the advertisement. The dentist is responsible for making copies of the advertisement available to the board within 10 days following a request by the board.</p> <p>(3) Other forms of advertisement shall be approved by the dentist and the contents and specifications, where applicable, shall be retained by the dentist for one year following the final appearance or use of the advertisement and the dentist is responsible for making copies of the advertisement available to the board within 10 days following a request by the board.</p> <p>(c) A dentist may not hold himself or herself out as a specialist or advertise specialty status unless the specialty is approved by the board.</p> <p>(d) Dentists who are not specialists in specialties approved by the board may nevertheless advertise that their practice is limited to a specific area of dentistry only if the dentist has obtained membership in or otherwise has been credentialed by an accrediting organization which is recognized by the board as a bona fide organization for such an area of practice.</p> <p>(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, a dentist licensed pursuant to this chapter may not hold himself or herself out as a specialist or advertise membership in a specialty recognized by an accrediting organization, unless the dentist has continuously held himself or herself out as a specialist since December 31, 1964, in a specialty recognized by the board or has completed a specialty education program approved by the board and the Commission on Dental Accreditation and meets either of the following qualifications:</p> <p>(1) Is eligible for examination by a national specialty board recognized by the board.</p> <p>(2) Is a diplomate of a national specialty board recognized by the board.</p> <p>(f) A dentist licensed under this chapter may not represent to the public without appropriate disclosure that his or her practice is limited to a specific area of dentistry other than a specialty area of dentistry authorized under subsection</p>
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	<p>(e) unless the dentist has attained membership in or has otherwise been credentialed by an accrediting organization which is recognized by the board as a bona fide organization for such an area of dental practice. In order to be recognized by the board as a bona fide accrediting organization for a specific area of dental practice other than a specialty area of dentistry authorized under subsection (c), the organization must condition membership or credentialing of its members upon all of the following:</p> <p>(1) Successful completion of a formal, full-time advanced education program that is affiliated with or sponsored by a university-based dental school that is beyond the dental degree, is at the graduate or postgraduate level, and is of at least 12 months in duration.</p> <p>(2) Prior didactic training and clinical experience in the specific area of dentistry which is greater than that of other dentists.</p> <p>(3) Successful completion of oral and written examinations based on psychometric principles.</p> <p>(g) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (e) and (f), a dentist who lacks membership in or certification, diplomate status, or other similar credentials from an accrediting organization approved as bona fide by the board may announce a practice emphasis in any other area of dental practice if the dentist incorporates in capital letters or some other manner clearly distinguishable from the rest of the announcement, solicitation, or advertisement the following statement: “ (NAME OF ANNOUNCED AREA OF DENTAL PRACTICE) IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A SPECIALTY AREA BY THE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF ALABAMA.” If such an area of dental practice is officially recognized by an organization which the dentist desires to acknowledge or otherwise reference in the dentist's announcement, solicitation, or advertisement, the same announcement, solicitation, or advertisement shall also state prominently: “ (NAME OF REFERENCED ORGANIZATION) IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A BONA FIDE SPECIALTY ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION BY THE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF ALABAMA.”</p> <p>(h) The purpose of this section is to prevent a dentist from advertising without appropriate disclosure membership in an organization which may be perceived by the public as recognizing or accrediting specialization or other unique competencies in an area of dentistry that is not recognized or accredited by the board in accordance with this section. The purpose of this section is also to prohibit a dentist from advertising a specialty or other area of dental practice without appropriate disclosure unless the special competencies held by the dentist satisfy the requirements of subsections (d) and (f). The Legislature finds that dental consumers can reasonably rely on these requirements as satisfactory evidence of a dentist's attainment of meaningful competencies in the specialty or other bona fide area of dental practice advertised. The Legislature also finds that this process for the recognition of dental specialties and other bona fide areas of dental practice is the least restrictive means available to ensure that consumers are not misled about a dentist's unique credentials.</p> <p>(i) A dentist who lacks membership in or certification, diplomate status, or similar credentials from an accrediting organization approved as bona fide by the board may announce a practice emphasis in any other area of dental practice if the dentist incorporates the disclaimer set forth in subsection (g).</p> <p>(j) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations delineating examples of advertising which would be considered false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive.</p> <p>§ 34-9-19.1. Advertising -- Dental referral service; requirements; prohibitions; penalties.</p>
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	<p>(a) For purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:</p> <p>(1) ADVERTISEMENT. Information communicated in a manner designed to attract public attention to a referral service, participating dentist, or a practice of dentistry.</p> <p>(2) DENTAL REFERRAL SERVICE. A person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, agent, or employee of any of the foregoing that engages in any business or service for profit that in whole or in part includes the referral or recommendation of persons to a dentist for any form of dental care or treatment.</p> <p>(3) DENTIST. Any person licensed to practice dentistry or any entity authorized by law which is formed for the purpose of practicing dentistry.</p> <p>(4) FALSE, FRAUDULENT, MISLEADING, OR DECEPTIVE STATEMENT. A statement or claim having one or more of the following characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">One that contains a misrepresentation of fact.One that is likely to mislead or deceive because in context it makes only a partial disclosure of relevant facts.One that is intended or is likely to create a false or unjustified expectation of favorable results.One that implies unusual superior dental ability.One that contains other representations or implications that in reasonable probability will cause an ordinary and prudent person to misunderstand or be deceived. <p>(5) PARTICIPATING DENTIST. A dentist who has paid a fee to the dental referral service in order to be included on its referral service.</p> <p>(b) A dental referral service shall not participate in the advertising of or operate a dental referral service unless all of the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">The patient referrals by the dental referral service result from patient-initiated responses to the service's advertising.The dental referral service discloses to any prospective patient who makes contact with the service that the participating dentists have paid a fee for participation in the service.The dental referral service does not impose a fee on the participating dentists dependent on the number of referrals or amount of professional fees paid by the patient to the dentist.Participating dentists charge no more than their usual and customary fees to any patient referred.The dental referral service registers with the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama providing all the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Name.Street address.Mailing address.Telephone number.Name of registered agent or person responsible for the operation of the dental referral service.Listing of other states where the dental referral service is registered.A copy of the standard form contract that regulates its relationship with participating dentists. <p>(c) Participating dentists shall not enter into a contract or other form or agreement to accept for dental care or treatment a person referred or recommended for the care or treatment by a dental referral service unless the dental referral service meets all the requirements of this section.</p>
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	<p>(d) A dental referral service that advertises shall include in each advertisement in legible or audible language, or both, a disclaimer containing all the following statements or information that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The participating dentist of the dental referral service is a dentist who has paid a fee to participate in the service. (2) The advertisement is paid for by participating dentists. (3) No representation is made about the quality of the dental services to be performed or the expertise of the participating dentists. (4) Participating dentists are not more or less qualified than dentists who are not participating in the service. <p>(e) Dental referral service advertisements shall not do any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Advertise or solicit patients in a manner that contains a false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement in any material respect. (2) Publish or circulate, directly or indirectly, any false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement as to the skill or methods of practice of any participating dentist. (3) Contain a statement or make a recommendation that the dental referral service provides referrals to the most qualified dentists or dental practices. (4) Contain a review process or a screening. (5) Contain qualifications or information verification that misleads the public into thinking a participating dentist has obtained special recognition or joined a selective group of licensed dentists by being a participating dentist in the dental referral service. <p>(f) A violation of Sections 34-9-15, 34-9-19, 34-9-28, or this section, including, but not limited to, advertising in any manner which is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive, shall subject a participating dentist to possible administrative disciplinary actions outlined in Section 34-9-18, after notice and hearing by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama and the opportunity for judicial review as provided in this article.</p> <p>§ 34-9-20. Unauthorized advertising, selling, or offering of dental services and appliances; injunctions. Any person, which word when used in this section shall include all legal entities not licensed to practice dentistry in this state, who shall advertise in any manner to the general public that he or she can or will sell, supply, furnish, construct, reproduce, or repair prostheses (fixed or removable), or other appliances to be used or worn as substitutes for natural teeth, or for the regulation thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and the circuit courts shall have jurisdiction to enjoin such person from so doing.</p> <p><u>Alabama Administrative Code 270-X-4.08 Advertising.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A dentist shall not make or cause to be made a false communication about the dentist or the dentist's services. A communication is false if it contains a material misrepresentation of fact or law. (2) A communication is defined as information in any manner or medium designed or intended to attract public attention to the dentist or his/her practice and shall include any "advertisement" as that term is defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-19. (3) Any/all advertisements for a dental practice/organization must include at least one dentist's name (working within the practice/organization) and/or the practice/organization name.
<p>Continuing Education</p>	<p><u>Code of Alabama 34-9-15. Annual registration; continuing education.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) No individual shall practice dentistry or dental hygiene in the State of Alabama unless licensed or permitted by the board and registered annually as required by this chapter. (b)(1) The secretary-treasurer of the board shall issue to each licensee an initial

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	<p>registration form which shall contain space for the insertion of name, address, date, and number of license certificate, and other information as the board shall deem necessary. The licensee shall sign and verify the accuracy of the registration before a notary public after which he or she shall forward the registration to the secretary-treasurer of the board together with a fee. Each subsequent registration shall be made in electronic format or by United States mail upon a form to be determined by the board. (2) On or before October 1 of each year, every dentist and dental hygienist licensed or permitted to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in the state shall transmit either online or by United States mail to the secretary-treasurer of the board the completed form prescribed by the board, together with a fee established by the board pursuant to this chapter, and receive thereafter the current annual registration certificate authorizing him or her to continue the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene in the state for a period of one year. Notwithstanding Section 34-9-16, the total amount of any administrative fines and costs assessed upon the licensee pursuant to Section 34-9-18 in a final and non-appealable order or agreement shall be added to and made a part of the fee.</p> <p>(c)(1) Any license or permit previously granted under the authority of this chapter or any prior dental practice act shall automatically be suspended if the holder thereof fails to secure the annual registration certificate before January 1, each year. Any dentist or dental hygienist whose license or permit is automatically suspended by reason of failure, neglect, or refusal to secure the annual registration certificate shall be reinstated by the board upon payment of the penalty fee plus all accrued annual registration fees up to a maximum of five years, accompanied with the prescribed form for annual registration of the license or permit. (2) Upon failure of any licensee or permittee to file application for the annual registration certificate and pay the annual registration fee on or before November 30, each year, the board shall notify the licensee or permittee by mail addressed to the last address of record that the application and fee have not been received and that, unless the application and fee are received on or before the first day of January, the license or permit shall be automatically suspended. The board shall notify the licensee or permittee by mail addressed to the last address of record of the effective date of the automatic suspension and the provisions for registration of the license or permit.</p> <p>(d)(1) The board shall waive the annual payment of fees herein provided for and issue a current annual registration certificate to any licensee or permittee who has retired from the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene because of age or physical disability. (2) The board by rule shall waive annual registration and the payment of fees while any licensee is on temporary active duty with any of the Armed Forces of the United States. (3) The waivers of fees provided in this subsection shall be effective so long as the retirement because of age or physical disability or temporary active duty continues. (e) The board shall adopt rules for the adoption of a program of continuing education for its licensees. The successful completion of continuing education program requirements shall be a requisite for renewal of licenses and permits issued pursuant to this chapter.</p> <p><u>Alabama Administrative Code 270-X-4-.0 4 Mandatory Continuing Education For Dentists and Dental Hygienists.</u></p> <p>(1) NUMBER OF HOURS. (a) Dentists shall complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal. No more than one-half (1/2) of the hours can be completed or satisfied by analog and/or digital media, journals, publications, internet courses, correspondence courses, or distance-based education whether by video or audio format. It shall be the responsibility of each dentist to submit on an annual basis an affidavit or other</p>
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	<p>form approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. The required hours must be completed in the twelve (12) month period beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the next year. The period shall begin on the date of the initial certification or on the date of any subsequent recertification. The specific dental continuing education requirements are as follows: (i) Dentists must maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the basic or advanced support level through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program. During the two-year CPR certification term, a dentist may apply only four (4) hours of CPR training to their annual twenty (20) hour requirement in the renewal period during which they were earned. (ii) Dentists must maintain current certification in infectious disease control as it relates to the dental office or to the practice of dentistry. Dentists must achieve a minimum of one (1) hour of Continuing Education in the subject of infectious disease control every two (2) years. (iii) Dentists must achieve a minimum of one (1) hour of Continuing Education in the subject of prescribing controlled substances every two (2) years. (iv) Beginning with the Continuing Education cycle that begins on October 1, 2023, Dentists must achieve a minimum of one (1) hour of Continuing Education in the subject of ethical considerations in the practice of Dental Examiners Rule 270-X-4-.04 4-.04-1 dentistry each year. The criteria for approval of ethics Continuing Education are set forth below in subsection (5)(g) of this Rule. (v) Dentists who hold an Oral Conscious Sedation Permit must also complete a minimum of two (2) hours of Continuing Education in the subject of sedation and/or anesthesia every two (2) years. (vi) The combined number of hours of continuing education training in the course areas of insurance, governmental regulations, and tort liability and/or risk management shall not exceed a total of four (4) hours for the annual renewal period. (vii) Practice management courses shall not exceed a total of three (3) hours for the annual renewal period. At least half of all continuing education must be attributed to the practice of dentistry. All hours earned for continuing education must be submitted in the renewal period during which they were earned. (b) Dental Hygienists shall complete twelve (12) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal. No more than one-half (1/2) of the hours can be completed or satisfied by analog and/or digital media, journals, publications, internet courses, correspondence courses or distance-based education whether by video or audio format. It shall be the responsibility of each dental hygienist to submit on an annual basis an affidavit or other form approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. The required hours must be completed in the twelve (12) month period beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the next year. The period shall begin on the date of the initial certification or on the date of any subsequent recertification. The specific dental hygiene continuing education requirements are as follows: (i) Dental hygienists must maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the basic support level through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program. This requirement must be satisfied by completing an in-person training course. During the two-year CPR certification term, a dental hygienist may apply only two (2) hours of CPR training to their annual requirement in the renewal period during which they were earned. (ii) Dental hygienists must maintain current certification in infectious disease control as it relates to the dental office or to the practice of dentistry. Rule 270-X-4-.04 Dental Examiners 4-.04-2 Dental hygienists must achieve a minimum of one (1) hour of Continuing Education in the subject of infectious disease control</p>
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	<p>every two (2) years. (iii) Beginning with the Continuing Education cycle that begins on October 1, 2023, Dental Hygienists must achieve a minimum of one (1) hour of Continuing Education in the subject of ethical considerations in the practice of dental hygiene each year. The criteria for approval of ethics Continuing Education are set forth below in subsection (5)(g) of this Rule. (iv) The combined number of hours of continuing education training in the course areas of insurance, governmental regulations, and tort liability and/or risk management shall not exceed a total of four (4) hours for the annual renewal period. (v) Practice management courses shall not exceed a total of three (3) hours for the annual renewal period. At least half of all continuing education must be attributed to the practice of dental hygiene. All hours earned for continuing education must be submitted in the renewal period during which they were earned. (c) Dentists/dental hygienists will be allowed up to four (4) hours of credit for the twelve-month period for pro bono charitable work performed within the State of Alabama. Any such work by a dental hygienist must be under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in the State of Alabama. One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be awarded for every two (2) hours of service. (d) Licensees who have graduated or completed a dental residency in the year of their initial licensure shall only be required to accrue and prove compliance with required hours of continuing education through the end of the subsequent year following licensure. Thereafter said licensees shall comply with continuing education requirements set forth above. However, said licensees must be able to prove compliance with this rule regarding CPR and infectious disease control certifications.</p> <p>(2) RECORD KEEPING, REPORTING, AND MONITORING.</p> <p>(a) It is the responsibility of each dentist/dental hygienist to maintain and compile accurate records relating to all continuing education courses or activities they have attended and completed. Accurate records shall mean a certification or evidence of attendance at any continuing education courses. It shall be the responsibility of each dentist/dental hygienist to maintain the above described documentation and information Dental Examiners Rule 270-X-4-.04 4-.04-3 pertaining to each year for a period of two (2) years and this information shall be submitted to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama within thirty (30) days after a request for the same by the Board. (b) Each dentist/dental hygienist must submit during the license renewal period of each calendar year, evidence or documentation of satisfactory completion of the required hours of continuing education provided for in these rules. This information shall be submitted on an affidavit and/or other means to be approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. Upon receipt of this information it shall be reviewed by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama and the dentist/dental hygienist shall then be notified that either: 1. They have fulfilled the requirements of these rules and their annual registration will be issued, or 2. They will be notified there are deficiencies or noncompliance with these rules and they will be subject to a non-disciplinary administrative penalty as set forth in Board Rule 270-X-5.09(1)(e). (c) Any dentist/dental hygienist who receives notification that they will be subject to a non-disciplinary administrative penalty because of non-compliance with these rules may appeal in writing to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama within Thirty (30) days from the date of the Board's notification to them of their non-compliance. Upon the receipt of the written appeal, the Board may request the submission of additional information or records or may require the dentist/dental hygienist to appear before the Board in connection with the appeal.</p> <p>(3) AUDITING. The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama may randomly audit</p>
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	<p>the continuing education documentation or information to be maintained or submitted by each dentist/dental hygienist as described herein to assure compliance with these rules. Failure to maintain the documentation or information set forth in these rules, the submission of false or misleading information or documentation to the Board, or failure to submit requested documentation or information within the time specified by the Board may subject the dentist/dental hygienist to a nondisciplinary administrative penalty.</p> <p>(4) WAIVER. Upon written request to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, and upon the demonstration of good and sufficient cause, the Board may grant a waiver or extension of time for the completion of the annual hour requirements for continuing education as set forth herein. Any such request must be received by the Board prior to September first (1st) of the year in which the waiver or extension applies. Any such request received after Rule 270-X-4-.04 Dental Examiners 4-.04-4 the above referenced date will be considered untimely and denied. The dentist/dental hygienist who seeks such a waiver or extension shall submit to the Board any documentation required by the Board which the Board deems appropriate for it to make a decision concerning that waiver or extension.</p> <p>(5) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION.</p> <p>(a) Continuing dental education may include, but is not limited to, attendance at lectures, study clubs, college and post graduate courses, scientific sessions of conventions, research, graduate studies, teachings, service as a clinician, analog and/or digital media, journals, internet courses, publications, or correspondence courses. Continuing education programs may include, but are not limited to, programs that address any of the following: 1. Competency in treating patients who are medically compromised or who experience medical emergencies during the course of dental treatment; 2. Knowledge of pharmaceutical products and the protocol of the proper use of medications or controlled substances; 3. Competency to diagnose oral pathology; 4. Awareness of currently accepted methods of infection control; 5. Basic medical and scientific subjects including but not limited to biology, physiology, pathology, biochemistry and pharmacology, analgesia, diet and nutrition, microbiology, anatomy, dental anatomy, microscopic anatomy, chemistry, organic chemistry, and neurology; 6. Clinical and technological subjects including but not limited to techniques and procedures in general dentistry or recognized specialties, dental materials and equipment, diagnosis and treatment planning, asepsis and sterilization techniques and radiology; 7. Subjects pertinent to health and safety including but not limited to public health problems, communicable diseases, emergency care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, advanced life support, patient stress management, the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, and ethical considerations in the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene; and 8. Insurance, governmental regulations and tort liability and/or risk management. Dental Examiners Rule 270-X-4-.04 4-.04-5 (b) Programs or courses that focus on the following areas cannot be considered acceptable or satisfactory continuing education: 1. Personal finances; 2. Presentations by political or public figures or other persons who do not deal primarily with dental or dental hygiene practice; 3. Personal motivational courses; and 4. Basic educational or cultural subjects not directly related to the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, outside the scope of the dentist/dental hygienist's practice or inconsistent with the dentist/dental hygienist's scope of practice. (c) One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be given for each hour of attendance and an hour of attendance shall be defined as exceeding fifty (50) minutes. Two (2) hours of continuing education credit shall be given for each</p>
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	<p>hour taught by a dentist/dental hygienist at a continuing education program provided, however, that no more than one-half (1/2) of the annual required hours can be completed or satisfied in this manner. A dentist/dental hygienist cannot attain more than eight (8) hours of continuing education credit for any one day.</p> <p>(d) Programs meeting the general requirements of paragraph 5(a) above may be developed and offered to dentists/dental hygienists by any of the following agencies or organizations: 1. National, state, district or local dental/dental hygiene associations; 2. Accredited dental/dental hygiene colleges or schools.</p> <p>(e) Courses may be approved by the Board, or its designee, if the following five (5) criteria are submitted to the Board at least two months in advance of a course's being presented (the Board will not approve courses in retrospect): 1. Didactic/clinical subject matter; 2. Lecture participation; 3. Outline objectives; 4. Hours commensurate with time spent; and, 5. Presenter qualifications. Rule 270-X-4-.04 Dental Examiners 4-.04-6 (f) The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama shall have the right to monitor or audit any course or program to determine whether that course or program is in compliance with these rules. (g) Continuing Education courses will be approved as meeting the requirements for ethical considerations in the practice of dentistry and/or dental hygiene if the information submitted to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama demonstrates that the course includes substantial content addressing any combination of one or more of the following topics: 1. The American Dental Association (ADA) Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct (dentists and/or dental hygienists); 2. The American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) Code of Ethics for Dental Hygienists (dental hygienists only); 3. Abuse, neglect, or human trafficking; 4. Sexual abuse, misconduct, and/or boundary violations; 5. Informed consent; 6. Billing and coding; and 7. Mandatory reporting obligations applicable to dentists and/or dental hygienists. Courses presented by the American Society for Dental Ethics or the American College of Dentistry, and any course that satisfies an ethics continuing education requirement of the licensee's professional liability insurance carrier, will also generally be accepted as satisfying the ethics requirement.</p> <p>(6) LICENSEES EXCUSED FROM CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. (a) Any dentist/dental hygienist licensed in the State of Alabama but practicing outside the State of Alabama; however, if such person returns to the State of Alabama, and desires to practice dentistry/dental hygiene, he/she shall then be required to submit evidence to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama prior to being allowed to practice, that they have attended and completed within the preceding five (5) years continuing education courses or programs which comply with these rules in a number of hours not less than twenty (20) nor more than One Hundred (100). (b) Dentists enrolled fulltime in a postgraduate specialty training or residency program at a dental school accredited by Dental Examiners Rule 270-X-4-.04 4-.04-7 the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation. (c) Dental hygienists enrolled fulltime in an academic program directly related to dentistry/dental hygiene, including but not limited to the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program. (d) Any dentist/dental hygienist who fails to comply with the provisions of these rules or who otherwise violates the Alabama Dental Practice Act in connection with the requirements of these rules or relating to any information to be maintained or submitted to the Board as provided for in these rules shall be assessed a non-disciplinary administrative penalty.</p> <p>270-X-2-.07 Annual Registration For Dentists</p> <p>(1) The Secretary-Treasurer of the Board shall furnish to every dentist currently licensed and registered to practice in the State of Alabama, on or before</p>
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	<p>September 1 of each year, a registration form which contains space for the insertion of his/her name, address, date and number of his/her license certificate and such other information as the Board shall deem necessary. The registration form shall also require the dentist to attest whether he or she is in possession of any controlled substances for dispensing or administration to patients, and, if so, whether his or her inventory record is reconciled to the actual inventory of controlled substances.</p> <p>(2) No later than September 30 of each year, every dentist licensed and registered to practice in the State of Alabama shall transmit to the Secretary of the Board the completed form prescribed by the Board, together with the prescribed annual registration fee. The valid period of a certificate of registration shall be exactly one year, commencing on October 1 and ending on September 30 of the following calendar year, without regard to the date on which the annual registration takes place. On October 1 of each year, the license of any dentist who shall have failed to complete the annual registration process as provided in this subsection shall be converted to expired status.</p> <p>(3) Between October 1 and December 31 of each year, any dentist whose license is converted to expired status as provided in subsection (2) may reinstate his or her license to active status by meeting all applicable requirements for renewal, and by paying the prescribed annual registration fee.</p> <p>(4) On or about December 1 of each year, the Executive Director shall cause the issuance of the written notices described in Ala. Code §34-9-15(c)(2), via U.S. Mail, to all dentists who, as of such date, shall not have completed the annual registration process.</p> <p>(5) On January 1 of each year, the licenses of all dentists who shall have failed to complete the annual registration process shall automatically be suspended. Any dentist whose license is automatically suspended for less than five years may reinstate his or her license by completing all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) meeting all applicable requirements for reinstatement;(b) paying the prescribed annual registration fee for all intervening years up to a maximum of five years; and(c) paying the statutory maximum reinstatement penalty as prescribed by Ala. Code §34-9-16. <p>(6) Any person who performs any act constituting the practice of dentistry without a valid license and annual registration as prescribed by law shall be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>(7) In no case shall a dentist be permitted to complete the annual license registration process unless he or she demonstrates the he or she has fulfilled the continuing education requirements prescribed by Rule 270-X-4-.04.</p>
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