

LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DENTAL PROFESSION ACT

CHAPTER 29:54

**Act
16 of 1980**

Current Authorised Pages

<i>Pages (inclusive)</i>	<i>Authorised by L.R.O.</i>
1-2	1/1990
3-16	1/1983
17-27	1/1990

Index
of
Subsidiary Legislation

	Page
Dental Regulations (36/1982) 	17

Corrigenda

- (a) At page 4, in the Long Title, in line 3, for the word "or" substitute the word "on".
- (b) At page 15, in section 45, in lines 1 and 3 for the word "regulations" substitute the word "Regulations".

CHAPTER 29:54**DENTAL PROFESSION ACT****ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Establishment of Board.
4. Persons eligible to be Board members.
5. Persons entitled to be registered.
6. Applicant may be temporarily registered.
7. Persons entitled to be enrolled.
8. Applicant may be temporarily enrolled.
9. Composition of the Council.
10. Election of Council.
11. Term of office of Council.
12. Functions of Council.
13. Council may appoint committees.
14. Register of Dentists.
15. Temporary registration and examination.
16. Conditions of temporary registration.
17. Rolls of Dental Auxiliaries.
18. Grace period for enrolment of persons performing as dental assistants, etc.
19. Opening of the Rolls.
20. Temporary enrolment and examination.
21. Conditions of temporary enrolment.
22. Honour Roll.
23. Secretary to keep Register and Rolls.
24. Publication of lists.
25. Certificate of Secretary to be sufficient evidence.
26. Registration of higher or additional qualification.
27. Treasurer to keep accounts.
28. Removal from Register or Roll.
29. Professional discipline.
30. Holding out as dentist or dental auxiliary.
31. Practice by unauthorised person.
32. Holding out as dental auxiliary of different class.
33. Performing as dental auxiliary of different class.
34. Person suspended found practising.
35. Dental nurses to treat children.
36. False representations with a view to obtaining registration or enrolment.
37. Appeal to Judge in Chambers.
38. Service of documents on the Board.
39. Authorisation to prosecute.

SECTION

40. Retention of services of barrister or solicitor.
41. Fines for use of Board.
42. Funds of Board to be used for purposes of Act.
43. Advisory Committee on Dental Auxiliaries.
44. Functions of the Advisory Committee.
45. Regulations.

CHAPTER 29:54

DENTAL PROFESSION ACT

16 of 1980.

An Act to provide for the regulation of the practice of dentistry by the establishment and operation of a Dental Council and an Advisory Committee or Dental Auxiliaries for the registration of dentists and the enrolment of dental auxiliaries and for matters connected therewith.

Commencement.

[10TH APRIL 1980]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Dental Profession Act.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act—

- “Council” means the Council elected by the Dental Board under this Act;
- “dental auxiliary” means a person enrolled as a dental assistant, dental hygienist, dental nurse or dental technician;
- “dentist” means a person registered or deemed to be registered under this Act to engage in the practice of dentistry;
- “diploma” means any diploma, degree, fellowship, membership, licence or certificate granted by any university, college or other institution conferring authority to practise dentistry in the country or place where granted and recognised by the Council as furnishing a sufficient guarantee of the possession of the requisite knowledge and skill for the efficient practice of dentistry;
- “practice of dentistry” includes—
- (a) the performance of any operation, and the treatment of any diseases, deficiencies, or lesions, on or of

human teeth or jaws and the performance of radiographic work with human teeth or jaws;

- (b) the giving of any anaesthetic in connection with any operation on human teeth or jaws or supporting structures;
- (c) the performance of any operation on, or the giving of any treatment, advice or attendance to any person, as preparatory to or for the purpose of, or for, or in connection with the fitting, insertion, fixing, constructing, repairing or removing of artificial dentures or restorative dental appliances; or
- (d) the performance of any operation, the prescribing of any drug, the giving of any treatment, advice or attendance as is usually performed, prescribed or given by dentists;

“temporary enrolment” means enrolment under section 20(b) and in accordance with section 21;

“temporary registration” means registration under section 15(a) and in accordance with section 16;

“Training School for Dental Nurses” means the Training School for Dental Nurses established and operated by Government.

3. There is established a body corporate called the Dental Board of Trinidad and Tobago (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”).

Establishment of Board.

4. (1) Dentists and dental auxiliaries are eligible to be members of the Board.

Persons eligible to be Board members.

(2) For the purpose of electing the first Council under this Act, persons registered as dentists under the Medical Board Act are deemed to be the members of the Board.

Ch. 29:50.

5. (1) A person is entitled to be registered to practise dentistry on making application therefor where he—

Persons entitled to be registered.

- (a) is the holder of a diploma;
- (b) shows to the satisfaction of the Council that he is of good character; and
- (c) pays such fees as may be prescribed.

(2) Persons who immediately prior to the commencement

Ch. 29:50. of this Act were registered under Part II of the Medical Board Act* are entitled to be registered to practise dentistry.

Applicant may be temporarily registered.

6. An applicant for registration may be temporarily registered to practise dentistry under section 15(a) and in accordance with section 16 where he shows to the satisfaction of the Council that he is of good character and pays such fees as may be prescribed.

Persons entitled to be enrolled.

7. A person is entitled to be enrolled to practise as a dental auxiliary on making application therefor where he—

- (a) is the holder of a qualification which in the opinion of the Council assures the possession by the applicant of the requisite knowledge and skill;
- (b) shows to the satisfaction of the Council that he is of good character; and
- (c) pays such fees as may be prescribed.

Applicant may be temporarily enrolled.

8. An applicant for enrolment to practise as a dental auxiliary may be temporarily enrolled under section 20(b) and in accordance with section 21 where he shows to the satisfaction of the Council that he is of good character and pays such fees as may be prescribed.

Composition of the Council.

9. (1) The Board shall be managed by a Council elected by and from among members who are dentists.

(2) The Council shall consist of—

- (a) a chairman who shall be President of the Board;
- (b) a vice-chairman who shall be Vice-President of the Board;
- (c) a secretary who shall be Secretary of the Board;
- (d) a treasurer who shall be Treasurer of the Board;
- (e) three other members one of whom shall be the dentist holding the most senior dental post in the Ministry of Health.

Election of Council.
Ch. 29:50.

10. (1) Members of the Dental Registration Committee established under the Medical Board Act and holding office at the commencement of this Act shall continue to hold office and shall register dentists and enroll dental auxiliaries until the election of the first Council under this Act.

*Part II of the Medical Board Act has since been repealed by Act 15 of 1980.

(2) Within one year of the coming into operation of this Act the Chairman of the Dental Registration Committee referred to in subsection (1) shall convene in accordance with this Act a general meeting of registered members of the Board for the purpose of electing a Council.

(3) Candidates for election as Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall have at least five years standing as practising dentists.

11. Members of the Council shall hold office for a term of three years. Term of office of Council.

12. The functions of the Council shall be— Functions of Council.

- (a) to determine and keep under review the professional qualifications and experience required of an applicant for registration or enrolment;
- (b) to register dentists and enroll dental auxiliaries;
- (c) to regulate the training of persons enrolled as dental auxiliaries;
- (d) to publish for general information a list of universities, colleges or other institutions the diplomas of which are recognised by the Council;
- (e) to appoint a Board of Examiners for the purpose of conducting examinations required by this Act to be conducted;
- (f) to define the dental work which any class of dental auxiliary may undertake and the conditions, if any, under which a dental auxiliary may undertake such work;
- (g) to ensure the maintenance of proper standards of professional conduct by dentists and dental auxiliaries;
- (h) to hold inquiries into allegations of improper or unprofessional conduct by dentists and dental auxiliaries and to discipline those found guilty.

13. (1) For the purpose of assisting it in the exercise of its functions the Council may appoint committees and in particular the Council shall appoint a Dental Enrolment Committee consisting of— Council may appoint committees.

- (a) the Chairman of the Council who shall be the Chairman;

- (b) the Secretary of the Council who shall be the Secretary;
- (c) the dentist holding the most senior dental post in the Ministry of Health; and
- (d) two dental auxiliaries.

(2) A person shall not be enrolled as a dental auxiliary unless he has been recommended for enrolment by the Dental Enrolment Committee.

Register of Dentists.

14. (1) The Council shall cause to be kept a Register of Dentists hereinafter referred to as "the Register".

(2) There shall be shown in the Register in respect of every person registered therein—

- (a) his name and address;
- (b) the description and dates of the diplomas of which he is the holder; and
- (c) the date of his registration.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), a person shall not practise as a dentist unless registered in accordance with this Act.

Ch. 29:50.

(4) Persons who immediately prior to the commencement of this Act were registered under Part II of the Medical Board Act* shall be entitled to be registered under this Act without making application therefor, and until their names are entered on the Register shall be deemed to be registered.

(5) The Register shall be open at all reasonable times and subject to inspection by any person on payment of the prescribed fee.

Temporary registration and examination.

15. The Council may in order to be satisfied that the qualification of an applicant for registration is sufficient to assure the possession by the applicant of the requisite knowledge and skill for the efficient practice of dentistry—

- (a) grant temporary registration and make recognition of the qualification conditional upon satisfactory performance during the period of temporary registration; or
- (b) make the recognition of the qualification conditional upon the passing of an examination conducted by

*Part II of the Medical Board Act has since been repealed by Act 15 of 1980.

the Board of Examiners appointed by the Council under section 12.

16. (1) In granting temporary registration, the Council shall specify— Conditions of temporary registration.

- (a) the period during which such registration shall remain in force;
- (b) the nature and character of the work which may be performed by the person to whom such registration has been granted,

and may impose such other terms and conditions as the Council may consider necessary.

(2) A person granted temporary registration shall have his name entered in a separate part of the Register and shall have entered against his name the terms and conditions in respect of which he was granted temporary registration.

(3) Where upon the expiration of the period of temporary registration, the Council is satisfied that the person granted temporary registration has fulfilled all the terms and conditions imposed under this section and is a fit and proper person to practise dentistry, the Council shall grant full registration.

17. (1) The Council shall cause to be kept separate Rolls for each class of dental auxiliary. Roll of Dental Auxiliary.

(2) There shall be shown in a Roll in respect of every person enrolled therein—

- (a) his name and address;
- (b) the description and date of his qualification; and
- (c) the date of his enrolment.

(3) Subject to section 18, a person shall not practise as a dental auxiliary unless enrolled in accordance with this Act.

(4) The Rolls shall at all reasonable times be open and subject to inspection on payment of the prescribed fee.

18. Notwithstanding sections 30 and 31, where at the commencement of this Act a person is engaged in the work of a dental assistant, dental hygienist or a dental technician he may continue to be so engaged for a period not exceeding three months from the opening of the Roll in which he is eligible to be enrolled. Grace period for enrolment of persons performing as dental assistants, etc.

Opening of the
Rolls.

19. The Roll for dental nurses shall be opened immediately upon the coming into operation of this Act and the other Rolls shall be opened on dates to be fixed by Order of the Minister on the advice of the Council, such dates being not earlier than three years from the coming into operation of this Act.

Temporary
enrolment and
examination.

20. The Council may in order to be satisfied that the qualification of an applicant for enrolment as a member of a class of dental auxiliary is sufficient to assure the possession by the applicant of the requisite knowledge and skill for the performance of the duties prescribed in relation to that class of dental auxiliary—

- (a) make enrolment conditional on the passing of an examination conducted by the Board of Examiners; or
- (b) grant temporary enrolment.

Conditions of
temporary
enrolment.

21. (1) In granting temporary enrolment the Council shall determine—

- (a) the time during which such enrolment shall remain in force;
- (b) the nature and character of the work which may be performed by the person to whom temporary enrolment was granted,

and may impose such other terms and conditions as the Council may consider necessary.

(2) A person granted temporary enrolment shall have his name entered in a separate part of the Roll and shall have entered against his name the terms and conditions in respect of which he was granted temporary enrolment.

(3) Where upon the expiration of the period of temporary enrolment the Council is satisfied that the person granted temporary enrolment has fulfilled all the terms and conditions imposed under this section and is a fit and proper person to be enrolled, the Council shall grant full enrolment.

Honour Roll.

22. (1) The Council shall cause to be kept an Honour Roll and shall cause to be entered in the Honour Roll—

- (a) the name of a dentist who in the opinion of the Council has made a significant contribution in the field of dentistry; and
- (b) who because of infirmity of body or any other cause

is unable to actively engage in the practice of dentistry.

(2) A dentist whose name is entered in the Honour Roll may perform such functions as the Council may specify.

23. The Secretary shall keep and maintain the Register and the Rolls in accordance with this Act and the Regulations and shall make such changes as are necessary to keep them up to date.

Secretary to keep Register and Rolls.

24. (1) The Secretary shall not later than 31st March in each year cause to be published in the *Gazette*—

Publication of lists.

- (a) a list of the names of all persons who at that time are registered as dentists;
- (b) a list of the names of all persons who at that time are enrolled as dental auxiliaries; and
- (c) a list of the names of all persons who at that time are entered on the Honour Roll.

(2) The Secretary shall as soon as is practicable cause to be published in the *Gazette*—

- (a) the name of a person who has been suspended or whose name has been removed from the Register or a Roll; and
- (b) the name of a person restored to the Register or a Roll.

25. In every case where proof of registration or enrolment is required, the production of a certificate under the hand of the Secretary showing that the person named therein is duly registered or enrolled shall be sufficient evidence in all Courts of the registration or enrolment of that person and the Register or Roll shall not be required to be produced and any such certificate shall be accepted without proof that the person signing is the Secretary.

Certificate of Secretary to be sufficient evidence.

26. A dentist or dental auxiliary who obtains a qualification higher than or additional to the qualification which he held at the time of his registration or enrolment and which is approved by the Council shall on payment of such fee as may be prescribed, be entitled to have such higher or additional qualification shown in the Register or Roll in substitution for or in addition to, as the case may be, the qualification previously shown.

Registration of higher or additional qualification.

Treasurer to
keep accounts.

27. The Treasurer shall manage the funds of the Board and shall make and render accounts of all moneys in accordance with the Regulations.

Removal from
Register or
Roll.

28. The Council shall cause to be removed from the Register or the Roll the name of any person—

- (a) whose registration or enrolment has been obtained upon a false or fraudulent representation; or
- (b) whose higher diploma or higher qualification shown in the Register or Roll was obtained by a false or fraudulent representation.

Professional
discipline.

29. (1) A dentist or dental auxiliary who is convicted in Trinidad and Tobago of an indictable offence or is convicted elsewhere of an offence which had it been committed in Trinidad and Tobago would be punishable on indictment, or who is guilty of unprofessional conduct, shall be liable to be dealt with as provided in subsection (2).

(2) The Council may, and upon the application of any person shall, cause inquiry to be made into any allegation that a person referred to in subsection (1) was convicted or was guilty of unprofessional conduct and on proof thereof may—

- (a) censure or reprimand that person;
- (b) suspend that person; or
- (c) cause the name of that person to be removed from the Register or Roll, as the case may be.

(3) Any dentist or dental auxiliary who is the subject of inquiry under subsection (2) shall be informed in writing of the allegation against him.

(4) A dentist or dental auxiliary who fails to respond to an inquiry made of him by the Council within thirty days of despatch of the inquiry is liable to be suspended.

Holding out as
dentist or dental
auxiliary.

30. A person who, not being a dentist or dental auxiliary who—

- (a) takes or uses any name, title or description implying or calculated to suggest that he is a dentist or dental auxiliary; or
- (b) advertises or holds himself out as a person authorised or qualified to practise dentistry or to perform the functions prescribed in relation to any class of dental auxiliary,

is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two thousand dollars.

31. (1) A person not being a dentist or dental auxiliary who practises dentistry whether for reward or not is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year. Practice by unauthorised person.

(2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to—

- (a) a person who is registered or enrolled under any other written law and who under the authority of that written law performs or provides any service which he is authorised to perform thereunder which service falls within the definition of the practice of dentistry;
- (b) a student performing as such as part of his training;
- (c) a person giving necessary aid gratuitously in cases of urgent need; or
- (d) the domestic administration of family remedies.

32. A dental auxiliary who uses any title or description reasonably calculated to suggest that he possesses any status or qualification connected with dentistry other than a status or qualification which he in fact possesses and which is indicated in the particulars entered in the Roll in respect of him is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two thousand dollars. Holding out as dental auxiliary of different class.

33. A dental auxiliary who practises dentistry other than as prescribed in relation to the class of dental auxiliary in which he is enrolled or who performs a type of dental work which he is not authorised to perform is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months. Performing as dental auxiliary of different class.

34. A dentist or dental auxiliary who is suspended and who practises dentistry during his suspension is liable on summary conviction to the removal of his name from the Register or Roll as the case may be. Person suspended found practising.

35. (1) A dental nurse is qualified to treat children only and such treatment shall be carried out in facilities or services operated or conducted by Government or under the direct or indirect supervision of a dentist in private clinics. Dental nurses to treat children.

(2) A dental nurse who contravenes the provisions of this section is liable on summary conviction to the removal of his name from the Roll.

(3) In this section “children” means persons under the age of twelve years.

False representations with a view to obtaining registration or enrolment.

36. A person who procures his registration or enrolment or the registration or enrolment of any other person under this Act by wilfully making or causing to be made any false or fraudulent representation is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year.

Appeal to Judge in Chambers.

37. A person aggrieved by the refusal of the Council to register or enroll him, as the case may be, or by the removal of his name from the Register or Roll or by his suspension from practising dentistry may within three months after the date on which notice is given to him by the Council of such refusal, removal or suspension, appeal against the Council’s decision to a Judge in Chambers and the Judge shall give such direction in the matter as he may think proper, including a direction as to costs.

Service of documents on the Board.

38. The Board shall at all times have a fixed address for the service of documents on the Board and that address shall be registered with the Registrar General as soon as is practicable and any change of address shall be registered within twenty-eight days of the change.

Authorisation to prosecute.

39. No prosecution may be instituted for an offence under this Act except with the written consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Retention of services of barrister or solicitor.

40. The Council may engage a barrister or solicitor to appear on its behalf in any legal proceedings and may apply any part of the funds of the Board towards the remuneration of such barrister or solicitor.

Fines for use of Board.

41. Fines paid under this Act shall be used for the purposes of the Board.

Funds of Board to be used for purposes of Act.

42. Any sum of money collected by the Board under this Act shall be applied towards the payment of expenses incurred in the proper administration of this Act and in all matters incidental thereto.

Advisory Committee on Dental Auxiliaries.

43. There shall be established an Advisory Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (hereinafter referred to as “the Advisory Committee”) consisting of—

- (a) the dentist holding the most senior dental office in the Ministry of Health;
- (b) the Principal of the Training School for Dental Nurses;
- (c) a dentist who is a member of the Board and appointed by the Council;
- (d) two dental auxiliaries who are members of the Board elected by members who are also dental auxiliaries;
- (e) a dental auxiliary appointed by the Minister.

44. The Advisory Committee shall—

Functions of the
Advisory
Committee.

- (a) advise the Minister on matters relating to the administration of this Act in relation to dental auxiliaries; and in particular on the classification of offices and grades of dental nurses required and the scope and content of the programme of training to be followed by student dental nurses;
- (b) advise the Council in defining dental operations to be performed by dental nurses within the scope of their competence and the nature of their duties;
- (c) advise the Council in defining the dental work which a dental assistant, dental hygienist or dental technician may undertake and the conditions, if any, under which he may undertake them.

45. The Council may make regulations with the approval of the Minister for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act and in particular may by such regulations provide—

Regulations.

- (a) for the manner of applying for membership of the Board;
- (b) for the good government of the Board and for the proper conduct of its affairs;
- (c) for regulating the time, manner and place of meetings and proceedings of the Board and of the Council;
- (d) for the conduct of elections and all other matters arising out of or incidental to the elections;
- (e) for resignations and circumstances giving rise to vacancies on the Council;
- (f) for the conduct of examinations and the fees to be paid in respect of such examinations;

- (g) for the manner of applying for registration or enrolment, the procedure to be followed and the fees to be paid;
 - (h) for the type of dental work which any class of dental auxiliary may undertake and the conditions, if any, under which he may undertake such work;
 - (i) for the fees payable for inspection of the Register or Roll;
 - (j) for the payment of any membership annual or special fees to be paid by dentists and dental auxiliaries;
 - (k) for prescribing what constitutes unprofessional conduct;
 - (l) for the manner in which disciplinary proceedings may be conducted;
 - (m) for regulating the manner of applying and using the funds of the Board;
 - (n) for the appointment and proceedings of committees;
 - (o) for prescribing anything required or authorised by this Act to be prescribed.
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SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

DENTAL REGULATIONS**ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS****REGULATION**

1. Citation.
2. Interpretation.
3. Board membership.
4. Council elections.
5. Notice of election meetings.
6. Venue of election meetings.
7. Eligibility for membership of Council.
8. Nominations.
9. Resignation.
10. Removal of member.
11. Bye-elections.
12. Council meetings.
13. Special meetings.
14. Quorum.
15. Board meetings.
16. Form.
17. Board of Examiners.
18. Referral to Board of Examiners.
19. Examinations.
20. Requirements for registration.
21. Further requirements.
22. Fees payable and practice certificate.
23. Certificate of registration.
24. Duplicate Certificate.
25. Display of Certificate.
26. Additional or higher qualification.
27. Inspection of register.
28. Prohibition against advertising.

29. What constitutes advertising.
30. Signs.
31. Size of letters.
32. Removal of signs.
33. Unprofessional conduct.

SCHEDULE.

DENTAL REGULATIONS

36/1982.

made under section 45

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Dental Regulations. Citation.
2. In these Regulations— Interpretation.
- “Board” means the Dental Board of Trinidad and Tobago;
- “Council” means the Council provided for by section 9 of the Act;
- “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Board.
3. A dentist or dental auxiliary may apply to the Board for membership in the manner prescribed by the Council. Board membership.
4. Members of the Board may be elected to the Council by secret ballot at an election meeting. Council elections.
5. The Secretary shall give not less than fourteen days notice in writing to all members of the Board of every meeting, stating the venue thereof, to be held for the purpose of an election or bye-election to the Council, and where the notice is delivered by post the address of members as shown in the Register or Roll shall be used. Notice of election meetings.
6. Every meeting to be held for the purpose of an election or bye-election to the Council shall be held either at the registered office of the Board or at such other venue in Port-of-Spain as the Board may decide. Venue of election meetings.
7. (1) A member of the Board is ineligible for election to the Council where— Eligibility for membership of Council.
- (a) he is not resident in Trinidad and Tobago; or
- (b) he is not in good financial standing.
- (2) Nominations to the Council may be made and seconded only by members of the Board in good financial standing.
8. (1) The Board may decide whether nominations for Nominations.

[Subsidiary]

Dental Regulations

election to the Council shall be made—

- (a) in writing to the Secretary prior to the election meeting; or
 - (b) at the election meeting.
- (2) The decision of the Board is final.

Resignation.

9. (1) A member may resign from the Council by giving written notice of his resignation to the Secretary at least two months before the date on which the resignation is to take effect.

(2) The Council may, where it is satisfied that circumstances justify a shorter period of notice of resignation, accept a shorter period.

Removal of member.

10. (1) A member may be removed from office by members of the Council where—

- (a) he is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Council without a reasonable excuse accepted by at least four members of the Council;
- (b) he is guilty of unprofessional conduct;
- (c) he is unable to function effectively as a member because of infirmity; or
- (d) he defaults in the payment of fees prescribed by these Regulations.

(2) This regulation does not apply to the dentist holding the most senior dental post in the Ministry of Health who is *ex officio* a member of the Council.

Bye-elections.

11. (1) Where a vacancy occurs on the Council at least six months before the expiration of a term of office a bye-election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

(2) A member who is elected to the Council at a bye-election holds office for the remainder of the term of the member whom he succeeds.

Council meetings.

12. (1) Meetings of the Council are to be held at least six times a year at the office of the Council or at such other place as is indicated by the Secretary of the Council after consultation with the Chairman.

(2) Subject to regulation 5 the Secretary shall give notice in writing of every meeting of the Council to every member at least seven days before a meeting is convened, unless the meeting is one which is to be held within seven

days of a previous meeting at which such date and time were fixed.

13. (1) A member of the Council may request a special meeting of the Council, stating the purpose for which such a meeting is required. Special meetings.

(2) A request for a special meeting shall be supported by at least three other members.

(3) The Secretary shall within seven days of the receipt of the request convene a special meeting.

14. At every meeting of the Council five members, one of whom shall be the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, constitute a quorum. Quorum.

15. (1) The Council shall call an annual general meeting of the Board not later than December every year. Board meetings.

(2) At every annual general meeting of the Board reports from the President and the Treasurer shall be presented for the information of the Board.

16. (1) Application for registration as a dentist shall be made in the form set out as Form D.R. 1 in the Schedule. Form Schedule.

(2) Application forms may be obtained from the registered office of the Board.

17. The Council may appoint a Board of Examiners consisting of not less than six members at least four of whom shall be dentists. Board of Examiners.

18. (1) Where a person applies for registration as a dentist and— Referral to Board of Examiners.

(a) the Council considers the qualifications of the applicant insufficient to practise dentistry in Trinidad and Tobago; or

(b) a question arises about the diploma or certificate presented by the applicant,

the Council may refer the application to the Board of Examiners.

(2) On referral of an application, the Board of Examiners may recommend that the applicant take an examination following which the Board of Examiners may—

(a) recommend to the Council that the name of the applicant be entered in the Register; or

[Subsidiary]

Dental Regulations

(b) recommend that the application be refused.

Examinations.

19. (1) Examinations shall be conducted by the Board of Examiners in April and November of every year.

(2) The form of the examination may include any or all of the following—

- (a) a written paper;
- (b) clinical and oral examinations;
- (c) a practical examination; or
- (d) such other form as the Council may decide.

(3) A fee of one thousand dollars is payable by the applicant to the Treasurer of the Board before the applicant takes the examination.

Requirements for registration.

20. An applicant for registration as a dentist who satisfies section 5 of the Act or who is recommended for registration by the Board of Examiners is entitled on payment of a fee of fifty dollars to be registered as a dentist.

Further requirements.

21. (1) An applicant for registration as a dentist may be required to appear in person before the Council or to furnish such satisfactory references as to character as the Council may require.

(2) An applicant for registration as a dentist who is a national of Trinidad and Tobago shall obtain a Certificate of Identity and Good Character as set out in Form D.R. 1.

Form.

(3) A person applying for registration as a dentist who prior to his application has practised dentistry in a country other than Trinidad and Tobago shall furnish to the Council a letter or certificate of good standing from the governing dental body in the country in which he last practised dentistry.

Fees payable and practice certificate

22. (1) A dentist shall pay to the Council an initial fee of six hundred dollars to engage in the practice of dentistry and an annual practice fee of six hundred dollars.

(2) A dentist who pays the annual practice fee is entitled to a Practice Certificate valid for the year in respect of which the practice fee is paid.

(3) The practice fee is payable in advance on or before the 31st day of December in the year preceding that for which the certificate is required.

Dental Regulations

[Subsidiary]

(4) A dentist who fails to comply with sub-regulation (3) shall pay an additional practice fee of fifty dollars.

(5) A dentist employed in the Public Service and not allowed to engage in private practice because of his contract of service with the Government is exempted from paying the annual practice fee.

23. A dentist is entitled to a Certificate of Registration issued by the Council in the form set out in the Schedule as Form D.R. 2.

Certificate of registration. Schedule Form.

24. (1) A dentist may apply to the Council for a Duplicate Certificate of Registration or a Duplicate Practice Certificate where the original is lost or destroyed.

Duplicate Certificate.

(2) An application for a Duplicate Certificate shall be in the form set out in the Schedule as Form D.R. 3.

Schedule Form.

(3) A dentist is entitled to a Duplicate Certificate for a fee of fifteen dollars.

(4) A Duplicate Certificate shall be clearly marked "Duplicate".

(5) A dentist who practises at more than one location is entitled to be issued with a Duplicate Certificate for each location but a fee of fifteen dollars is payable for each Duplicate.

25. (1) The Certificate of Registration or Duplicate and the Practice Certificate or Duplicate shall be prominently displayed at all times in the reception area of the dentist's office.

Display of Certificate.

(2) A dentist employed in the Public Service need not display his Certificate of Registration or his Practice Certificate when practising in a public office, clinic or other premises in the performance of his duties as a public officer.

26. Higher or additional qualifications may be entered in the Register on payment of a fee of twenty-five dollars.

Additional or higher qualification.

27. The Register may be inspected at the registered office of the Board from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon Mondays to Saturdays on payment of a fee of five dollars.

Inspection of register.

28. (1) Subject to this regulation and regulation 29 a dentist may not advertise.

Prohibition against advertising.

(2) A dentist may upon starting a practice for the

[Subsidiary]

Dental Regulations

first time in Trinidad and Tobago publish that fact in the press.

(3) The publication may not exceed one standard newspaper column in width and 2.5 cm in height, may not contain references to qualifications, procedures or equipment and may not appear for more than three days.

What constitutes advertising.

29. (1) Any publication by a dentist in a newspaper, broadcast or notice which includes—

- (a) the name or professional address of the dentist; or
- (b) an indication of his profession; or
- (c) an indication that he is in practice;

may be regarded as advertising.

(2) Sub-regulation (1) does not apply to entries in normal type in a telephone directory or books on scientific or professional subjects or articles or correspondence in professional journals.

Signs.

30. (1) No dentist may erect on the premises where he practises more than two external signs indicating his vocational designation; one of which may be a suspended sign and one of which may be illuminated but not with an intermittent or neon type of illumination.

(2) The letters used on a sign may not exceed 10 cm in height.

Size of letters.

31. (1) Where an entrance sign is used words not exceeding 5 cm in height specifying office hours may be added to that sign.

(2) Where it is difficult to locate the dentist's office the words "Entrance On" may be added to the entrance sign.

Removal of signs.

32. The Council may in connection with a dental practice order the removal of any sign which by its nature, position, size or wording exceeds what is reasonably necessary to locate the premises where the dentist is practising.

Unprofessional conduct.

33. A dentist is guilty of unprofessional conduct who—

- (a) employs the services of any person to engage in the practise of dentistry without the dentist satisfying himself that the person employed is authorised by law to engage in such practice;
- (b) commits an offence under the Narcotic Control Ordinance involving the abuse of privileges conferred on dentists under that Ordinance;

- (c) commits an act of immorality, indecency or dishonesty or any other abuse of the professional relationship in which he stands to a patient;
- (d) makes any statement or signs any certificate or other document in his capacity as a dentist which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe is misleading or otherwise improper;
- (e) uses any title or description reasonably calculated to suggest that he possesses any professional status or qualifications other than one which he in fact possesses and which appears against his name in the Register;
- (f) engages in practice in a name other than that under which he appears in the Register; or
- (g) advertises or canvasses, whether directly or indirectly, for the purpose of obtaining patients or promoting his own professional advantage and this includes having any indication of his profession on the outside of any envelope being sent through the post.

SCHEDULE

Regulation 16

FORM D.R. 1

DENTAL COUNCIL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO For Office Use Only

115, ABERCROMBY STREET, PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD

Application form for Registration as a dentist under the Dental Profession Act, 1980.

(To be completed by the applicant in his handwriting)

I hereby apply to be registered as a Dentist by virtue of the following qualifications—

Diploma(s) Granting Authority

Fee

Certificate No.

Registration Date

Granted on (day, month, year)

Full name of applicant (in BLOCK letters, surname underlined)

Place of Birth..... Date of Birth.....

.....Male..... Female Nationality.....

Permanent Address (to appear in Dental Register)

Address to which Certificate of Registration is to be sent (if different from above).

[Subsidiary]

Dental Regulations

I declare that the foregoing particulars are correct, that I have not been suspended or disqualified or prohibited from practising dentistry or from being registered as a dentist in any country. I enclose a remittance ofin payment of the fee prescribed by these Regulations.

Date19..... *Signed*

I wish to become a member of the Dental Board of Trinidad and Tobago. I understand that only members of the Board are entitled to elect members of the Council or to become members of the Council.

Date *Signed*

CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY AND GOOD CHARACTER

I.....
(full name)

of.....
(Address in Trinidad and Tobago)

.....
certify that I am well acquainted with

.....
(Name of Applicant)
that he is the person he states himself to be in the foregoing declaration and that he is a person of good character.

Signature.....

Date.....

Occupation.....

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FIRST REGISTRATION

1. Applicants for registration are required to appear in person before the Dental Council and to produce the following documents—

- (a) Passport of evidence of identification and nationality.
- (b) Original Diploma(s) in Dentistry.
- (c) where applicable, a certificate from the appropriate governing body in the last country in which he/she practised indicating that he/she is in good professional standing.

2. The attention of applicants is drawn to section 31(1) of the Act which reads—

“31. (1) A person not being a dentist or auxiliary who practises dentistry whether for reward or not is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.”.

3. On being registered the applicant is entitled to a Certificate of Registration and a Practice Certificate for the year of Registration. Registration Certificates and the current Practice Certificate shall be prominently displayed in his/her reception area at all times.

Dental Regulations

[Subsidiary]

ANNUAL FEE FOR RETENTION IN REGISTER

For the retention of his name in the Register after the expiry of the Practice Certificate obtained on Registration the dentist must pay an annual practice fee of six hundred dollars. Prior notice of the date of payment of the fee together with a form of application for retention will be sent to the dentist's registered address.

FORM D.R. 2

Regulation 23

DENTAL COUNCIL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
115, ABERCROMBY STREET
PORT-OF-SPAIN
TRINIDAD

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

.....
of
.....
was duly admitted to practise Dentistry in Trinidad and Tobago on the
.....day of.....19.....
Registration No.....

.....
President

.....
Secretary

FORM D.R. 3

DENTAL COUNCIL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO For Office Use Only
AND TOBAGO
115, ABERCROMBY STREET
PORT-OF-SPAIN
TRINIDAD.

Fee

Certificate No.

Date Granted.....

APPLICATION FORM FOR DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OR DUPLICATE PRACTICE CERTIFICATE

I hereby apply for a Duplicate Certificate of Registration or Duplicate Practice Certificate

I enclose a remittance of \$.....for each Certificate requested
Reason(s) for request

Date19..... Signed