

IN THE MATTER OF  
PAUL G. HEESE, D.D.S.

Respondent

License Number: 10154

\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
\* STATE BOARD OF  
\* DENTAL EXAMINERS  
\* Case Number: 2014-098

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF  
LICENSE TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY**

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the "Board") hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of **PAUL G. HEESE, D.D.S.** (the "Respondent"), License Number 10154, to practice dentistry in the State of Maryland. The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c) (2009 Repl. Vol.), concluding that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action.

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>**

Based on information received by, and made known to the Board, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to the Board, including the instances described below, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:

**BACKGROUND**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Maryland. The Board initially issued a dental license to the

---

<sup>1</sup> The statements respecting the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

Respondent on October 28, 1988, under License Number 10154. The Respondent's license is current until June 30, 2014.

2. From around 1989 to 2012, the Respondent practiced dentistry as a private practitioner in Maryland. The Respondent reported that he stopped practicing dentistry in or around 2012.

3. In the course of investigating an unrelated case, the Board discovered that the Respondent was arrested and charged with assault and drug-related offenses in Florida on or about May 21, 2013. Based on this information, the Board initiated a complaint and an investigation of the Respondent.

#### **BOARD INVESTIGATION**

4. Board investigation determined that the Respondent has a mental condition that unless treated, renders him a danger to the public. In 2013, the Respondent went on an extended road trip, during which he: pleaded guilty and was convicted of possession of marijuana in the Laurel Municipal Court, Laurel, Mississippi, on or about February 4, 2013, under Case Number 201300315; pleaded *nolo contendere* to possession of cocaine in the Circuit Court for Escambia County, Florida, on or about September 20, 2013, under Case Number 2013CF002561A; pleaded *nolo contendere* to simple assault and possession and/or use of drug equipment in the Circuit Court for Escambia County, Florida, on or about September 20, 2013, under Case Number 2013CF002561A. In a Board interview on or about November 13, 2013, the Respondent admitted that he is unable to practice dentistry at this time.

### **Possession of Marijuana in Mississippi**

5. As part of its investigation, the Board obtained court records and police reports from Laurel, Mississippi. The Laurel Police Department incident report stated that on or about February 3, 2013, the Respondent approached an officer from Laurel Police Department in Laurel, Mississippi, and made irrational statements, which caused the police officer to question the Respondent's mental stability.

6. The police officer asked the Respondent whether he had had anything to drink or had taken any illegal drugs. The Respondent replied that he did not drink but had some marijuana in his vehicle. He then told the police officer that he would not consent to a search of his vehicle.

7. The police officer approached the Respondent's vehicle and immediately smelled an odor of burnt marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. His search of the Respondent's vehicle revealed a pipe and a small bag of marijuana in the back of the vehicle. The police officer then placed the Respondent under arrest and charged him with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

8. On or about February 4, 2013, the Respondent appeared before a judge in the Laurel Municipal Court and pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana in a vehicle. The Court imposed a fine of \$249.25 and an assessment of \$183.75, and suspended the Respondent's driver's license for a period of six months.

### **Assault and Drug Possession in Florida**

9. The Board also obtained court records and police reports regarding an arrest of the Respondent in Escambia County, Florida in May 2013. An Escambia County Sheriff's Office deputy reported that on or about May 21, 2013, he responded to

a call from a woman ("Victim A"),<sup>2</sup> who complained that the Respondent, whom she did not know and had never met, was repeatedly stalking her.

10. The sheriff's deputy responded to the call and spoke to Victim A. While searching the area, the sheriff's deputy discovered the Respondent parked in a white van. After placing the Respondent under arrest, the sheriff's deputy observed a smoking pipe under the vehicle's center console, which later tested positive for cocaine residue. The Respondent was charged with stalking, simple assault, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11. On or about September 20, 2013, the Respondent appeared before a judge in the Circuit Court for Escambia County, Florida, Case Number 2013CF002561A, and pleaded *nolo contendere* to simple assault, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. The Respondent received a time served disposition and was placed on probation for 24 months with conditions that he stay away from Victim A and the Red Roof Inn, and that he obtain psychological evaluation and counseling.

#### **Respondent's Board Interview**

12. The Respondent was interviewed by a Board investigator at the Board's offices on or about November 13, 2013. During the interview the Respondent admitted to his arrests and convictions for assault and drug related offenses in Mississippi and Florida. He stated that he had a mental condition, which led to his criminal conduct in Mississippi and Florida.

---

<sup>2</sup> To ensure confidentiality, the names of individuals involved in this case, other than the Respondent, are not disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain the identity of all individuals referenced in this document by contacting the administrative prosecutor.

13. Toward the end of the interview, the Respondent stated to the Board investigator that he questioned his own mental stability and ability to practice dentistry.

14. Based on the above investigative findings, the Board has a basis to charge the Respondent under the Maryland Dentistry Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol.). Specifically, the Board has a basis to charge the Respondent with violating the following provisions of Health Occ. § 4-315(a):

- (16) Behaves dishonorably or unprofessionally, or violates a professional code of ethics pertaining to the dentistry profession;<sup>3</sup>  
[and]
- (17) Is mentally or physically incompetent to practice dentistry.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively required that the Respondent's license to practice dentistry in the State of Maryland be summarily suspended, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) (2009 Repl. Vol.).

#### ORDER

It is this 17th day of January, 2014, by a majority of the Board considering this case:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice dentistry in the State of Maryland, under License Number 10154, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that upon the Board's receipt of a written request from the Respondent, a Show Cause Hearing shall be scheduled at the Board's next regularly

---

<sup>3</sup> Md. Code Regs. 10.44.23.01B(2) defines "unprofessional or dishonorable conduct in the practice of dentistry" as "Engaging in conduct which is unbecoming a member of the dental profession."

scheduled meeting, at which the Respondent will be given an opportunity to be heard as to why the Order the Summary Suspension should not continue; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent fails to request a Show Cause Hearing or makes a request for a Show Cause Hearing and fails to appear for it, the Board shall continue the Summary Suspension; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent, if he has not already done so, shall immediately turn over to the Board all physical licenses and/or indicia of licensure issued to him by the Board to practice dentistry that are in his possession; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this document constitutes an Order of the Board and is therefore a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-617(h) (2009 Repl. Vol.).



---

Maurice S. Miles, D.D.S.  
Vice Chair  
Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

### **NOTICE OF HEARING**

A Show Cause Hearing to determine why the Order for Summary Suspension should not continue will be held before the Board at Spring Grove Hospital Center, Benjamin Rush Building, 55 Wade Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21228, at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting, contingent upon a written request by the Respondent.

At the conclusion of the Show Cause hearing held before the Board, the Respondent, if dissatisfied with the result of the hearing, may, within ten (10) days, request an evidentiary hearing. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the Board shall

then provide a hearing within forty-five (45) days after the Respondent's request. The Board shall conduct an evidentiary hearing under the contested case provisions of Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-210 *et seq.*