

BEFORE THE DENTAL BOARD OF THE STATE OF IOWA

IN THE MATTER OF THE STATEMENT OF CHARGES AGAINST

MELIAH RICH, Q.D.A., RESPONDENT

DES MOINES, IOWA

#18-0141

STATEMENT OF CHARGES, SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT and FINAL ORDER

(combined)

COME NOW the Iowa Dental Board (Board), and Melia Rich, Q.D.A. (Respondent), and pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10 and 272C.3(4), enter into the following combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order (Order).

A. LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

1. Respondent was issued dental assisting registration 11331 in the state of Iowa on January 18, 2012.
2. Respondent's dental assisting registration is current and will expire on August 31, 2019.
3. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 147, 153, and 272C (2018).

B. STATEMENT OF CHARGES

SECTIONS OF STATUTES AND RULES INVOLVED

COUNT I

4. Respondent is charged under Iowa Code section 153.34(7) and 650 IAC 30.4(13) with engaging in unprofessional conduct.

STATEMENT OF MATTERS ASSERTED

5. In September 2018, Respondent stole tramadol from a patient's medication bag, which the patient had brought into the dental office for purposes of establishing an accurate medication list.

C. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

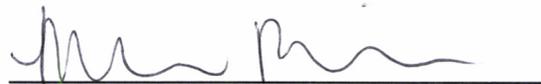
6. Respondent's registration shall be placed on PROBATION for a period of eighteen (18) months, subject to the following terms:
 - a. Respondent shall completely abstain from the use of alcohol and drugs, except for prescription drugs prescribed by a duly licensed and treating health care provider. Respondent shall inform any treating health care provider of her prior history prior to receiving a new prescription for a controlled substance. Respondent shall submit any valid prescriptions to the Board within forty-eight (48) hours to facilitate accurate chemical screening.
 - b. Respondent shall enroll in the Board's chemical screening program within ten (10) days of the date of this Order. Respondent shall fully

comply with the Board's chemical screening program, which includes daily contact with the chemical screening program to determine whether a specimen is required. Respondent shall provide urine, blood, breath, or hair specimens when required by the chemical screening program. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs associated with the chemical screening program.

- c. Respondent shall disclose this Order to all current and future employers who employ her as a dental assistant. Respondent shall report back to the Board with signed statements from all current employers within fourteen (14) days of the date of this Order, and thereafter within fourteen (14) days of any new employment relationship, indicating that they have read this Order, and understand the probationary terms.
- d. Respondent shall immediately report to the Board any issues involving substance abuse, any criminal charges, or any criminal convictions.
- e. Respondent shall be responsible for the costs incurred by the Board in monitoring Respondent's probationary period. Respondent shall promptly remit payment in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) on or before the 1st of January, April, July, and October of each year for such costs while on probation.

- f. Respondent shall submit quarterly reports detailing compliance with this Order during the entire probationary period. Quarterly reports are due by the 1st of January, April, July and October of each year.
 - g. Respondent shall fully cooperate with random unannounced visits by agents of the Board to determine compliance with this Order.
 - h. Respondent shall, upon reasonable notice and subject to the provisions of 650 IAC 31.6, appear before the Board at the time and place designated by the Board.
7. This Order constitutes the initiation and resolution of a contested case proceeding.
 8. This Order is voluntarily submitted by Respondent to the Board for consideration.
 9. Respondent acknowledges that no member of the Board, nor any employee, nor attorney for the Board, has coerced, intimidated, or pressured her, in any way whatsoever, to execute this Order.
 10. By entering into this Order, Respondent voluntarily waives any rights to a contested case hearing and waives any objections to the terms of this Order.
 11. Respondent understands that by entering into this Order, she cannot obtain a copy of the investigative file. Under Iowa Code section 272C.6(4), a copy of the investigative file may only be provided to a licensee after the initiation of a contested case proceeding and prior to its resolution.
 12. Respondent acknowledges that she has the right to be represented by counsel in this matter.

13. Respondent understands that the Board is required by federal law to report this Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
14. Upon approval by the Board, this Order becomes a permanent public record available for inspection and copying, in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapters 22 and 272C.
15. This Order is subject to approval by the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Order, it shall be of no force or effect to either party.
16. Upon approval by the Board, this Order shall constitute a FINAL ORDER of the Board.



MELIAH RICH, Q.D.A.
Respondent

This combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order is approved by the Board on April 5th, 2019.



STEVEN P. BRADLEY, D.D.S.
Chairperson, Iowa Dental Board