

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
POLICY**

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS

POLICY

The South Carolina State Board of Dentistry's general policy concerning the economic relationships within which dentists may practice is as follows:

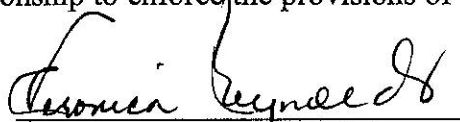
Protection of the public is the overriding concern of the Board. While the economic relationship is not a direct regulatory concern of the Board, the licensee must at all times control the exercise and practice of his or her practice of dentistry and must at all times exercise independent professional judgment regardless of the economic relationship or business form involved.

Licensees are subject to all provisions of the Dental Practice Act regardless of the economic relationship. This includes recordkeeping and documentation, patient record retention and supervision requirements. Unlicensed persons are not permitted to practice dentistry. Licensees may not employ or permit an unlicensed person to practice dentistry or dental hygiene. It is unlawful and unprofessional for a licensee who engages in the practice of dentistry to permit a person other than a licensed dentist to direct, participate in or interfere with the licensee's practice of dentistry. See S.C. Code 40-15-83, 40-15-100, 40-15-120, 40-15-190.

Consequently, licensees should not enter into any agreement or associate themselves with a practice arrangement which permits a person other than a licensed dentist to direct, participate in, or interfere with the licensee's practice of dentistry and independent professional judgment.

To the extent that the licensee's economic relationship complies with this policy and is otherwise authorized by applicable law, it is authorized by the licensing law of this State governing dentists. It is the responsibility of each individual practitioner to ensure that he or she practices only within the lawful scope of practice as provided by the applicable practice act and other State law. It is further the responsibility of non-licensees to refrain from any activities which constitute the practice of dentistry. As required by law, complaints received by the Board concerning unlicensed practice or other violations of the Dental Practice Act by licensees will be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action or other enforcement actions taken as warranted by the individual facts and circumstances. As such, it is the policy of the Board of Dentistry to collect sufficient information concerning the economic relationship to enforce the provisions of the Dental Practice Act.

Date: 8/20/09



Veronica Reynolds, Administrator