

**BEFORE THE KANSAS DENTAL BOARD**

In the Matter of the Licensure of: )  
 )  
THOMAS KRISS, D.D.S. )  
Kansas License No. 7081 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**Case No. 23-55**



**STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the Kansas Dental Board (the “Board”) and Thomas Kriss, D.D.S. (the “Respondent”) as follows:

1. The Board is represented herein by its attorney, Brenda L. Head of Frieden & Forbes, LLP, 1414 SW Ashworth Pl., Suite 201, Topeka, Kansas 66604. The Respondent is represented herein by his attorney, NONE

2. The Board is the Kansas agency vested with the authority, pursuant to K.S.A. 74-1404 and K.S.A. 74-1406, to carry out and enforce the provisions of the Kansas Dental Law, K.S.A. 65-1401 *et seq.*, including conducting hearings and proceedings to revoke, suspend or otherwise discipline a Kansas license to practice dentistry.

3. The Respondent is presently entitled to engage in the practice of dentistry in the State of Kansas by reason of the Board having issued him Kansas license number 7081. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent has held a current license to engage in the practice of dentistry in the State of Kansas.

4. The Board’s Investigation Committee members have received certain information, investigated and determined that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Respondent has committed one or more acts in violation of K.S.A. 65-1436(a) which would justify the revocation or imposition of other disciplinary action against his Kansas License under the provisions of

K.S.A. 65-1436(b) and the assessment of an appropriate fine against Respondent under the provisions of K.S.A. 65-1436(d).

5. Respondent hereby admits and waives any further proof in this or any other proceeding before or initiated by the Board, and upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board finds, that:

A. At all times relevant to this matter the Board's regulations included K.A.R. 71-1-18 regarding sterilization and infection control. At all relevant times, K.A.R. 71-1-18 (b)(3)(C) required all licensees to use biological spore testing devices on each sterilization unit after each six days of use, but no less than each month to verify that all pathogens have been killed. At all relevant times, the regulation also required the licensee to maintain a log of spore testing for each sterilization unit for a period of three years. At all relevant times, K.A.R. 71-1-18(b)(3)(D), (E) and (F) required sterilization of devices and placement in a closed bag or container until immediately before use.

B. On December 11, 2003, a representative of the Board inspected Respondent's dental office and found it to be out of compliance with the Board's sterilization and infection control regulations, including not having a spore test log available at the time of the inspection.

C. On November 17, 2010, a representative of the Board inspected Respondent's dental office and found it to be out of compliance with the Board's sterilization and infection control regulations, including failing to have high-speed handpieces in a sealed bag until immediately before use.

D. On February 3, 2021, a representative of the Board inspected Respondent's dental office and found it to be out of compliance with the Board's sterilization and infection

control regulations, including failing to maintain spore test logs from August 2020 and October 2020 to December 2020 at the time of the inspection.

E. On March 4, 2021, the Board advised the Respondent of the February 3, 2021 deficiencies and warned Respondent another deficient inspection could result in disciplinary action.

F. On June 8, 2023, a representative of the Board inspected Respondent's dental office and found it to be out of compliance with the Board's sterilization and infection control regulations for not maintaining sterilized instruments in a closed bag until immediately before use.

6. Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board finds that Respondent's conduct violates the Kansas Dental Act and subjects his license to discipline pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1436(a)(6) for repeated failures to comply with the Board's sterilization regulations in general and specifically K.A.R. 71-1-18(b)(3)(C), (D), (E) and (F).

7. The Respondent agrees and consents, and the Board finds and concludes, that the following disposition is just and appropriate under the circumstances:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE FINE. Respondent agrees, and the Board further orders the Respondent to pay an administrative fine in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), within ten (10) days of the entry of this Order.

B. OTHER REQUIREMENTS. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that as a condition of this Stipulation and Consent Order he must, and the Board further orders the Respondent to:

1. Comply fully with this Stipulation and Consent Order; and

2. Comply fully with the Kansas Dental Act, the Board's rules and regulations and all state and federal laws relating to Kansas dentists.

8. Respondent agrees that all information in the possession of the Board's Investigation Committee, its staff, its investigators and its attorney regarding the complaint which led to this disciplinary action, the investigation of the complaint and all information discovered during the pendency of the disciplinary action may be disclosed to and considered by the Board as part of the presentation and consideration of the proposal of settlement in the form of this Stipulation and Consent Order, with or without the presence of the Respondent or his attorney. In the event that this Stipulation and Consent Order is not accepted and approved by the Board, the Respondent further waives any objection to the Board members' consideration of this Stipulation and Consent Order or the information mentioned in the preceding sentence and further agrees to waive any claim of due process violation or the right to seek the disqualification of any Board member as a result of the Board member's consideration of said document and information.

9. The stipulations and orders contained herein shall not become binding until this Stipulation and Consent Order is approved and entered by the Board. The Respondent acknowledges that the approval of the Board's attorney shall not constitute the approval of the Board or bind the Board to approve this Stipulation and Consent Order.

10. The Respondent agrees that this Stipulation and Consent Order is in conformance with Kansas and federal law and the Board has jurisdiction to enter into it. The Respondent further agrees that the Kansas Dental Act, K.S.A. 65-1421 *et seq.*, is constitutional on its face and as applied in this case.

11. This stipulation constitutes the entire agreement of the parties and may only be modified by a subsequent writing signed by them. The agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas.

12. The Respondent acknowledges that he has the following rights:

- A. To have formal notice of charges served upon him;
- B. To file a response to the charges;
- C. To have notice of and participate in a formal adjudicative hearing with the Board making specific findings of facts and conclusions of law based only upon evidence admitted at such hearing; and
- D. To take advantage of all applicable provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act and the Kansas Judicial Review Act.

The Respondent freely waives these rights and acknowledges that said waiver is made voluntarily and in consideration of the Board's limiting the disciplinary action taken against him to those provided for herein. The Respondent further waives the right to seek reconsideration or appeal or otherwise contest this Stipulation and Consent Order.

13. The Respondent acknowledges that he enters into this Stipulation and Consent Order freely and voluntarily after consultation with or an opportunity to consult with counsel of his choosing. The Respondent further acknowledges that he has read this Stipulation and Consent Order in its entirety, that he understands its legal consequences and that he agrees that none of its terms are unconscionable, arbitrary or capricious.

14. Time is of the essence to this Stipulation and Consent Order. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that any violation of this Stipulation and Consent Order shall constitute a willful violation of a lawful Board order and grounds for further disciplinary action against him.

The pendency of any disciplinary action arising out of an alleged violation of this Stipulation and Consent Order shall not affect the obligation of Respondent to comply with all terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Consent Order.

15. This Stipulation and Consent Order constitutes the entire and final agreement of the parties. In the event any provision of this Stipulation and Consent Order is deemed invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be severed and the remaining provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order shall be given full force and effect.

16. Upon execution by all parties and entry as an order by the Board, this Stipulation and Consent Order shall be a public record in the custody of the Board.

17. This Stipulation and Consent Order shall become effective on the day it is approved, accepted and made an order of the Board by way of signature of the Board's President or the President's authorized representative.

18. The Respondent acknowledges that he has been advised by the Board that he would have the right within 15 days after service of this Stipulation and Consent Order to file a petition for reconsideration with the Board and the right within 30 days after service of the Stipulation and Consent Order to file a petition for judicial review in a Kansas District Court in accordance with the Kansas Judicial Review Act, K.S.A. 77-601 *et seq.*, and to serve such a petition for judicial review on the Kansas Dental Board by serving B. Lane Hemsley, its Executive Director, at 900 SW Jackson, Room 455-S, Topeka, KS 66612. The Respondent hereby waives those rights.

**ENTERED AND EFFECTIVE** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.


KANSAS DENTAL BOARD

By:   
MARK HERZOG, D.D.S.  
President

*Matter of Thomas Kriss, D.D.S., No. 23-55 (Kansas Dental Board)*

**STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER**

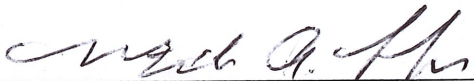
AGREED AND APPROVED BY:

  
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THOMAS KRISS, D.D.S.

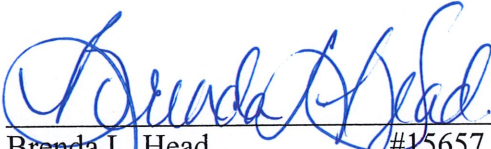
9-13-2023  
Date

N/A  
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Respondent's Attorney's Name & Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK HERZOG, D.D.S.  
Investigation Member

11/17/23  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda L. Head #15657  
FRIEDEN & FORBES, LLP  
1414 SW Ashworth Pl., Suite 201  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
TEL: (785) 354-1100  
FAX: (785) 354-1113  
[bhead@fflawllp.com](mailto:bhead@fflawllp.com)  
**Disciplinary Counsel for the Kansas Dental Board**

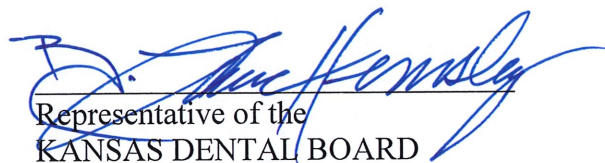
9-15-2023  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing **STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER** was served by depositing same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023, addressed to:

Brenda L. Head  
FRIEDEN & FORBES, LLP  
1414 SW Ashworth Pl., Suite 201  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Thomas Kriss, D.D.S.  
1212 Chestnut  
Emporia, KS 66801

  
Representative of the  
KANSAS DENTAL BOARD