

BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD  
OF DENTAL EXAMINERS,

Complainant,

CASE #: 2007-DB-0039D

v.

BRUCE L. CASSIS, DDS,

Respondent.

**CONSENT DECREE AND ORDER**

The West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners (hereinafter referenced as the Board) has initiated a complaint against Bruce L. Cassis, DDS, (hereinafter referenced as the Respondent) alleging that he has engaged in conduct, practices and acts that do not meet professional standards and that may pose a risk to members of the public. After the Board investigated the facts relating to this complaint, specifically the controlled substance pharmaceutical prescription writing, dispensing and ordering practice of the Respondent, the Board entered into discussions with the Respondent. The Board and the Respondent have reached an agreement as to an appropriate disposition of the complaint, with consideration to appropriate safeguards for protection of the public.

WHEREAS, the Board agrees and acknowledges that this agreement is a compromise of claims disputed by the Respondent, and that his agreement and consent to these terms do not constitute an admission of guilt or culpability on his part.

WHEREAS, the parties have reached an understanding concerning the proper disposition of the matter in controversy, the Board does hereby Find and Order as follows:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. That the Board is the State entity created by West Virginia Code § 30-4-1 *et seq.* and is empowered to regulate the practice of dentistry.
2. That the Respondent is a licensee of the Board, possessing License No. 2530 and is subject to the license requirement of the Board.
3. That Board alleges that a review of the Respondent's controlled substance pharmaceutical prescription writing and ordering practices from August 2003 through November 2006 along with various patient records show that he engaged in conduct, practices or acts constituting professional negligence or a willful departure from accepted standards of professional conduct.
4. That Board alleges that the Respondent prescribed various Schedule III controlled substances as defined under West Virginia Code § 60A-2-208 as well as Schedule IV controlled substances as defined under West Virginia Code § 60A-2-210 without treatment records to support the need for the quantity of controlled substances prescribed.
5. The Respondent's controlled substance order history indicates that a large quantity of controlled substances were ordered from January 23, 2004 through November 1, 2006 and the Respondent failed to demonstrate by way of patient records or independent record logs how these controlled substances were dispensed.

### CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. That the Board has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action against the Respondent.
2. That pursuant to West Virginia Code § 30-4-1 *et seq.*, the Board may revoke a license, suspend a license, reprimand a licensee or take other disciplinary action for violation of the rules and regulations of the Board.
3. The Respondent is a licensee of the West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners and is subject to license requirements of the Board.
4. Based on the investigation conducted, the Complaint Committee of the Board believes that there is substantial evidence to demonstrate that the Respondent has violated the Practice Act, West Virginia Code § 30-4-1 *et seq.*

### CONSENT OF LICENSEE

The Respondent by affixing his signature hereto, acknowledges the following:

1. Respondent has been given the opportunity to consult with counsel and executes this Consent Decree and Order voluntarily, freely, without compulsion or duress and mindful that it has legal consequences.
2. No person or entity has made any promise or given any inducement whatsoever to encourage Respondent to enter this Consent Decree and Order other than as set forth herein.
3. Respondent acknowledges that he is aware that he may pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court proceedings, and is aware of his legal rights regarding this matter, but intelligently, knowingly and voluntarily waives such rights.

4. Respondent acknowledges that he is aware that this Consent Decree and Order is a public document, available for inspection at any time by any member of the public under Chapter 29B *et seq.*, of the West Virginia Code, Freedom of Information Act and may be reported to other governmental, professional Boards or organizations.

5. Respondent waives any defense of laches, statute of limitations, estoppel and waiver that he may have otherwise claimed as a condition of this Consent Decree and Order.

6. The Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Decree and Order shall be presented to the Board as soon as practical but no later than next scheduled meeting of the Board, with a recommendation for approval from the Complaint Committee.

7. The Respondent, by affixing his signature hereon, consents and agrees to the following terms and conditions.

#### ORDER

That the Board agrees to forego further prosecution of the complaint pursuant to the Consent Decree between the Board and Respondent, Bruce L. Cassis, DDS as follows:

1. That the license of the Respondent to practice dentistry in the State of West Virginia is suspended for one year, with all but fifteen (15) working days **STAYED**, the Suspension shall commence upon entry of this Consent Decree and Order.

2. That the Respondent shall be placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, said probation is subject to the following terms and conditions:

3. The Respondent shall be prohibited from prescribing, dispensing, or administering any scheduled controlled substances in West Virginia. Six (6) months from the date of this Consent Order, the Respondent may petition the Board to allow him to exercise the privilege of prescribing scheduled controlled substances.

4. In the event that the Respondent obtains the privilege of prescribing controlled substances, the Respondent shall maintain a separate log detailing all controlled substances prescribed, administered and dispensed. The Respondent shall list the name of the medication prescribed, administered or dispensed and the quantity of said medication, along with an explanation for the prescribing, administering or dispensing of the medication. A copy of this log shall be sent to the Board quarterly. Said log shall also be made available upon request by the Board or its designee at any time.

5. Within one year of the date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a course in pharmacology pre-approved by the Board. The course shall include an intensive course in the proper prescribing of controlled dangerous substances. The Respondent shall submit written verification to the Board of his enrollment and shall submit proof of having successfully completed the course.

6. Within one year of the date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a course in ethics pre-approved by the Board. The Respondent shall submit written verification to the Board of his enrollment and shall

submit proof of having successfully completed the course.

7. Within one year of the date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a course in record keeping pre-approved by the Board. The Respondent shall submit written verification to the Board of his enrollment and shall submit proof of having successfully completed the course.

8. After completing the courses outlined above, the Respondent shall successfully complete the Jurisprudence, Ethics and Risk Management (JERM) Examination administered by the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. and the Dental law examination given by the West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners.

9. That the Respondent shall at all times cooperate with the Board, any of its agents or employees, in the monitoring or investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. The Respondent shall be responsible for any expense associated with the monitoring of his practice during the probation period as well as any expenses associated with written reports, records or verifications of actions that may be required by the Board.

10. That the Respondent's failure to fully comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order hereby imposed shall be deemed a violation of Probation and of this Consent Order, and that if the Respondent violates any of the terms of this Consent Order, the Board may immediately suspend the Respondent's license.

11. The Respondent shall obey all laws of the United States, the State of West Virginia and its political subdivisions. The Respondent shall comply with the West Virginia Dental Practice Act and its rules and regulations.

12. The Respondent shall neither direct nor permit his employees to violate any provisions of the West Virginia Dental Practice Act or its rules and regulations.

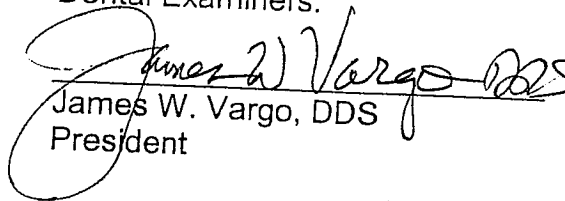
13. The Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars, (\$500.00);

14. The Respondent shall reimburse the Board costs associated with this case in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00); and


Effective  
Entered this 1st day of June 2008.



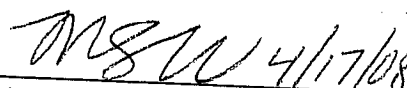
West Virginia Board of  
Dental Examiners:

 5-5-08  
James W. Vargo, DDS  
President

Inspected and Agreed to by:

  
Bruce L. Cassis, DDS, Respondent

4/17/08

  
Mark S. Weiler, Esquire  
MILLER, WEILER, WALTERS & ELSWICK  
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Counsel for Respondent