

April 19, 2016

Texas Sunset Advisory Committee

To whom it may Concern;

As a Dental Assistant in the field for almost 30 years I would like to give some information which can be helpful for the review board. As you know our license have been in Texas since 2006. I believe the education Dental Assistant receive now helps them to understand the full impact of X-ray radiation, infection control, and the jurisprudence of our state.

As an Extern Evaluator I have witnessed several concerning incidents of X-Ray radiation and the infection control. Several of our sites are no longer being used do to their failure to comply with the Laws of Texas. We reported these to the board as a concern and removed our students.

I have witnessed students holding the x-ray head because it continued to float. I gave the site my concerned and done a second visit with in the week. It had not been corrected so we removed the student. Our students know the dangers of the accumulative damages X-ray radiation can do to them. They are aware of the dangers for their patients and the person who is sitting in the operatory while the x-rays are taken.

The students write daily journals for the evaluator to read. Several sites were not autoclaving (sterilizing), their extraction forceps. The student was told to disinfect by the spray, wipe, spray technique. If a previous patient had any of the diseases such as HIV, HBV, or TB this would have exposed the next patient due to the instruments not being sterilized. Once again the students were removed. One site had my students to remove gloves and leave in the operatory. Once they returned, even with blood on the gloves, they were asked to use those same gloves. I spoke to the Dentist on this account and it was corrected.

As an Educator of the field my concerns would be the infection control and X-ray radiation would not be taken seriously as it once was in the state if we lose our license. We have always tried to comply with every law of the state and go above the standards of education with our students for their safety as well as the safety of the patients. We have always passed with the State on our visits from the Radiation Evaluations.

As a Dental Assistant's the license help the general public, dentist, and themselves. It would be a mistake to remove the license they need for exposing x-rays, understand blood borne pathogens of infection control, and the laws of our state.

If you have any question of my concerns, please feel free to contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ or 817 880-0001.

Sincerely yours,

Rhonda Abbott CDA, RDA TX, AR