

Dentist Disciplinary Action: What Do Dentists Get in Trouble for?

Mesures disciplinaires imposées aux dentistes : pour quelles raisons les dentistes ont-ils des ennuis?

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TABLE 2. Most common categories and reasons for disciplinary action against Canadian dentists

Province	Most common category	Most common reasons for discipline (<i>n</i> of cases, % of cases)
Overall (5 provinces; <i>N</i> = 344)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical incompetence (64%) 2. Professional misconduct (55%) 3. Dishonest business practices (43%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate documentation (134, 39%) • Inadequate testing/history taking/examination (110, 32%) • Inadequate/inappropriate treatment (109, 32%) • Substandard technique or conditions (101, 29%) • Failure to obtain/document informed consent (94, 27%) • Fraudulent billing (77, 22%)
British Columbia (<i>n</i> = 22)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional misconduct (68%) 2. Clinical incompetence (64%) 3. Dishonest business practices (64%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraudulent billing (11, 50%) • Substandard technique or conditions (9, 41%) • Inadequate/inappropriate treatment (8, 36%) • Misdiagnosis/delayed diagnosis (7, 32%) • Breached a condition on licence (7, 32%) • Inadequate documentation (6, 27%)
Alberta (<i>n</i> = 36)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional misconduct (86%) 2. Clinical incompetence (56%) 3. Dishonest business practices (39%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to obtain/document informed consent (15, 42%) • Inadequate documentation (14, 39%) • Inadequate/inappropriate treatment (8, 22%) • Inadequate testing/history taking/examination (8, 22%) • Inappropriate advertising (8, 22%) • Lying/misrepresentation (8, 22%)
Saskatchewan (<i>n</i> = 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional misconduct (100%) 2. Clinical incompetence (50%) 3. Dishonest business practices (50%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to obtain/document informed consent (1, 50%) • Inadequate documentation (1, 50%) • False documentation (1, 50%) • Failure to cooperate with the college (1, 50%) • Inadequate/inappropriate treatment (1, 50%) • Substandard technique or conditions (1, 50%) • Failure to refer (1, 50%) • Inappropriate or excessive fees (1, 50%)

Province	Most common category	Most common reasons for discipline (<i>n</i> of cases, % of cases)
Ontario (<i>n</i> = 111)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional misconduct (68%) 2. Clinical incompetence (59%) 3. Dishonest business practices (52%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate documentation (51, 46%) • Fraudulent billing (44, 40%) • Inappropriate or excessive fees (30, 27%) • Inadequate/inappropriate treatment (29, 26%) • Failure to obtain/document informed consent (26, 23%) • Inadequate testing/history taking/examination (25, 23%)
Quebec (<i>n</i> = 173)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical incompetence (68%) 2. Professional misconduct (38%) 3. Dishonest business practices (35%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate testing/history taking/examination (73, 42%) • Substandard technique/conditions (65, 36%) • Inadequate documentation (63, 36%) • Inadequate/inappropriate treatment (63, 36%) • Failure to obtain/document informed consent (48, 28%) • Inappropriate advertising (39, 23%)

Green indicates clinical incompetence. Blue indicates professional misconduct. Orange indicates dishonest business practices. Percentages do not sum to 100% as some cases involved multiple categories or multiple reasons for disciplinary action.

TABLE 3. Most common penalties for Canadian dentists

Province	Penalty
Overall (5 provinces; N = 344)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costs of the investigation (326, 95%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500–\$67,1357, median \$5,000 2. Fines (180, 52%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000–\$50,000, median \$6,000 3. Professional development (175, 51%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a course (140), audits/practice inspections (99), internship or have a preceptor (51) 4. Reprimand (164, 48%) 5. Suspension (155, 45%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranging from one week to 32 months, median three months 6. Publication (126, 37%) 7. Conditions on licence (51, 15%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not perform a certain procedure (26), not practice alone (7), not prescribe/dispense narcotics/controlled drugs (4), notify employers or patients of discipline history (4) 8. Licence revocation (29, 8.4%) 9. Ongoing fitness to practice assessments/counselling (9, 2.6%)
British Columbia (n = 22)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional development (18, 81%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a course (16), audits or practice inspections (13), complete an internship or have a preceptor (8) 2. Costs of the investigation (14, 64%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000–\$95,000, median \$4,500 3. Fines (13, 59%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,000–\$50,000, median \$15,000 4. Reprimand (13, 59%) 5. Suspension (11, 50%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranging from one month to 32 months, median six months 6. Licence revocation (4, 18%) 7. Conditions on licence (6, 27%) 8. Not practice alone (4), have a chaperone present, not perform a certain procedure, notify employers/patients of discipline history, limit to number of patients seen (1) 9. Ongoing fitness to practice assessments/counselling (5, 23%) 10. Publication (2, 9%)
Alberta (n = 36)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costs of the investigation (36, 100%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000–\$671,357.21, median \$24,099.94 2. Suspension (29, 81%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranging from one week to 12 months, median one month 3. Fines (13, 36%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000–\$30,000, median \$10,000 4. Licence revocation (4, 11%) 5. Professional development (28, 78%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a course (27) 6. Reprimand (7, 19%) 7. Conditions on licence (1, 3%) 8. Publication (1, 3%)

Province	Penalty
Saskatchewan (n = 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costs of the investigation (2, 100%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cases: \$66,325.73 and \$140,301.09 2. Publication (2, 100%) 3. Suspension (1, 50%) 4. Fine (1, 50%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One case: \$5,000 5. Licence revocation (1, 50%) 6. Apology (1, 50%)
Ontario (n = 111)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reprimand (105, 95%) 2. Professional development (92, 83%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a course (83), audits or practice inspections (81), complete an internship or have a preceptor (17) 3. Costs of the investigation (100, 90%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500–\$318,297.87, median \$5,000 4. Suspension (79, 71%) 5. Publication (76, 68%) 6. Conditions on licence (25, 23%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not perform a certain procedure (7), not prescribe/dispense narcotics or controlled drugs (4), notify employers/patients of discipline history (3) 7. Licence revocation (15, 14%) 8. Fitness to practice/counselling (6, 5%)
Quebec (n = 173)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costs of the investigation (172, 99%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value typically not declared 2. Fines (153, 88%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000–\$38,500, median \$5,500 3. Publication (46, 27%) 4. Reprimand (39, 23%) 5. Professional development (37, 21%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and internship or have a preceptor (26), take a course (14) 6. Suspension (35, 20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranging from one week to 30 months, median two months 7. Conditions on licence (19, 11%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not perform a certain procedure (18), not practice alone (1) 8. Licence revocation (5, 3%)