## OHIO STATE DENTAL BOARD

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## POLICY REGARDING TERMINATION OF THE DENTIST-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

Preamble: The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Board's position regarding what should be considered when terminating the dentist-patient relationship.

It is the position of the Ohio State Dental Board that the following elements should be satisfied prior to terminating the dentist-patient relationship:

- 1. All efforts should be made to give the patient sufficient notice of termination of dental services.
- 2. All efforts should be made to stabilize the patient's dental condition and not place the patient's dental health in immediate jeopardy.
- 3. Upon written request, a copy of all records should be made available to the patient or the subsequent treating practitioner.

The Board traditionally has held that if a dentist has abandoned the patient, he or she potentially has violated the standard of care for the profession which may be grounds for discipline pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4715.30 (A)(7). Dentists following these minimum guidelines will likely be considered to be following appropriate termination procedures and thus giving an indication that the patient has not been abandoned.

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