

Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners



2651 N. Green Valley Pkwy, Ste. 104 • Henderson, NV 89014 • (702) 486-7044 • (800) DDS-EXAM • Fax (702) 486-7046

MEMORANDUM

To: All Licensees
From: Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners
Re: Beware of Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners Impersonation Scam
Date: August 9, 2022

THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS DOES NOT THREATEN INDIVIDUALS OR DEMAND IMMEDIATE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF ARREST

Please be aware that the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners has seen an increase in reports of scammers targeting Dental Licensees through unsolicited telephone calls and correspondence on false letterhead in which the caller and/or author claims to be a representative of the Board in conjunction with other local and federal government agencies.

Be advised that the Board and other local and federal agencies do not call or email individuals threatening arrest or demanding money. Scammers often spoof caller ID information, and these phone calls are fraudulent even if they appear to be coming from an agency's legitimate phone number. Recipients should hang up immediately and report the call to authorities and to the Board.

There are many versions of the Board impersonation scam, and they all exploit intimidation tactics. Typically, the caller advises the recipient of the call that charges have been, or soon will be, filed against them, and threatens to confiscate the recipient's property, freeze their bank accounts, or have them arrested unless payment is made immediately. In addition, the callers specifically threaten the immediate suspension of the practitioner's license as a result of the charges allege, thereby threatening the recipient's livelihood. If the recipient questions the caller, the caller becomes more aggressive and often cites incorrect statutes and regulations and/or valid statutes and regulations incorrectly applied to the circumstances. The recipients are then advised that it will cost thousands of dollars in fees or court costs to resolve the matter, and the caller typically instructs people to wire "settlement" or "bond" money or provide payment via prepaid cards or gift cards to avoid arrest and further penalties surrounding the recipient's license and ability to practice dentistry.

Please note that the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners will never:

- Call or email licensees to demand payment in lieu of arrest or threaten arrest. The Board also will not ask a licensee to wire a "settlement" or "bond" to avoid arrest
- Ask a licensee to use large sums of money to help catch a criminal or assist in a criminal investigation
- Ask a licensee for wire transfers or gift cards

Scams impersonating staff members or members of the Board from the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners are a persistent problem and can also occur via email. Common hallmarks of a scam email include misspellings, missing words and incorrect grammar. They also include the names of individuals whom are not employed by or with the Board or include forged electronic signatures on letterhead claiming to be from the Board. Fraudulent emails may give the appearance of legitimacy by using pictures of the Nevada State Seal or inclusion of fraudulent correspondence from different federal agencies such as the FBI or the U.S. Department of Justice and their respective seals and letterhead.

Licensees seeking to confirm that they have been contacted by an actual Board employee are encouraged to contact the Board directly at the telephone number and email address listed on its website at <https://dental.nv.gov> and to confirm the list of current employees and staff members also included on the Board's website. Depending on the severity of impersonation also included State and Federal agencies such as the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Attorney General's Office, the FBI, the U.S. Department of Justice, etc., licensees victimized by these scams should also report this conduct to the appropriate agency.

To avoid becoming a victim of this scam, be wary of answering phone calls from numbers you do not recognize. Do not send money to anybody that you do not personally know and trust. Never give out your personal information, including your Social Security numbers, over the phone or to individuals you do not know.

If you think you are a victim of this scam and suffered a financial loss, please file a report with your local law enforcement agency and the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at ic3.gov.

All types of fraud schemes and scams (even if there is no financial loss) should be reported IC3. Filing a complaint allows analysts from the FBI to identify leads and patterns from the hundreds of complaints that are received daily. The IC3 then refers the complaints, along with their analyses, to the relevant law enforcement agency to aid in public awareness and crime-prevention education efforts.



Hardeep Sull

Executive Director, Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners