

**March 2024**

**Dental Board Adopts New and Amended Rules: Effective Date March 7, 2024**

**Registered Dental Assistant: Retired Registration**

This new rule allows registered dental assistants to apply to the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) to retire their registration and be able to reinstate a retired registration.

- Holders of a valid and current Texas RDA may apply to the TSBDE to have the RDA placed on retired status.
- RDAs can apply for retired status using the TSBDE form before the expiration date of the person's RDA registration.
- The TSBDE will deny a retired status request if the RDA applicant has any current or pending complaints or disciplinary actions.
- To reinstate a retired RDA<sup>2</sup>, the individual must submit a TSBDE reinstatement application, pay the required fee, comply with applicable provisions of the Dental Practice Act and TSBDE rules, and meet the following requirements:
  - A reinstatement applicant, who is practicing as a registered dental assistant in another state, or territory outside the United States at the time of the application or
  - Has practiced as a registered dental assistant actively within the 2 years immediately preceding the date of the reinstatement application must provide the TSBDE with:
    - ✓ A verification of registration and disciplinary history from all state boards of dentistry where the RDA held a registration.
    - ✓ Proof of active practice within 2 years preceding the reinstatement application.
    - ✓ Proof that the RDA has taken and passed the TSBDE's jurisprudence assessment within 1 year immediately preceding the reinstatement application.
    - ✓ Proof of successful completion of a current hands-on BLS course.
    - ✓ Proof of completion of 6 continuing education hours taken within the 12 months preceding the date of the reinstatement application. CE must be taken per the TSBDE's rule governing CE for RDAs – 22 Texas Administrative Code §114.12; and
    - ✓ Proof of submission of fingerprint for a criminal history review.
  - An RDA who has not actively practiced for at least 2 years immediately preceding the reinstatement application must provide the TSBDE with:
    - ✓ A verification of registration and disciplinary history from all state boards of dentistry where the RDA held a registration.
    - ✓ Proof that the RDA has taken and passed the TSBDE's jurisprudence assessment within one year immediately preceding the reinstatement application.
    - ✓ Proof of successful completion of a current hands-on BLS course.
    - ✓ Proof of completion of 12 continuing education hours, of which a minimum of 6 hours must be hands-on clinical training taken within the 12 months preceding the date of the reinstatement application. CE must be taken per the TSBDE's rule governing CE for RDAs – 22 Texas Administrative Code §114.12; and
    - ✓ Proof of submission of fingerprint for a criminal history review.

An RDA applying to reinstate a retired registration must have complied with or satisfied all conditions of any Board order that may have been in effect at the time the dental board granted the RDA's request for retired status.

The TSBDE has the discretion to require an RDA reinstatement applicant to comply with other reasonable conditions when considering an RDA's request to enter active practice.

### **Changes to Electronic Prescribing Waivers**

The TSBDE's rule amendment to electronic prescribing waivers<sup>3</sup> removes the requirement that a dentist submit a written statement and supporting documentation describing the circumstances necessitating the waiver. Instead, the dentist can attest to the circumstances necessitating a waiver. This makes the dental board's waiver process less burdensome for the dentist.

The TSBDE updated its Electronic Prescribing Waiver Form in February 2024. Dentists requesting a waiver must submit the updated form. [Click here](#) to access the updated form.

To check the date of your waiver expiration, go to [TSBDE Public License Search](#). Dentists with an approved waiver will have its expiration date displayed under "Electronic Rx Waiver Expiration Date:"

### **References**

1. 22 Texas Administrative Code §114.8, *Retired Registration Status*
2. 22 Texas Administrative Code §114.13, *Reinstatement of a Cancelled Registration*
3. 22 Texas Administrative Code §115.5, *Electronic Prescribing Waivers*