

Quick Tips for the Dental Office



Licensing

There are various types of licenses that a dentist can hold in Pennsylvania. Here is an overview of the various types of licenses and the circumstances in which they apply:

Dental License

For individuals who intend to actively engage in the practice of dentistry, or who hold themselves as being able to or legally authorized to do so, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Volunteer Dental License

A volunteer dental license is intended for dentists who are retired, or not actively practicing, but wish to volunteer at a dental clinic or for another approved organization.

The applicant must:

- Be a current licensee in good standing who has retired from active practice **or**
- Be a current licensee who has not retired but does not otherwise practice or provide dental services in Pennsylvania, and is not required to maintain professional liability insurance.
- Attest that they intend to practice only in an approved clinic or organization, and receive no personal remuneration for their services.
- Comply with continuing education and other clinical competency regulations.
- Comply with Dental Practice and Volunteer Health Services Acts.
- Comply with requirements for anesthesia permit holders and renew permit biennially (if applicable).



Dentists with volunteer licenses are exempt from paying the biennial renewal fee.

Restricted Faculty License

A restricted faculty license is intended for a dentist who is obtaining a license exclusively for the purpose of faculty appointment at an accredited dental school in Pennsylvania, approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association.

Restricted faculty licensees are only able to use their license within the primary facilities of the dental school of which they are a faculty member, and they are not permitted to practice anywhere else in the state of Pennsylvania, including satellite or other off-campus sites of the dental school.

To apply for this license, the dean of an accredited Pennsylvania dental school approved by CODA must complete the Faculty Appointment Certification form and return the form directly to the Board prior to application submission.

An applicant for a restricted faculty license must be licensed to practice or teach dentistry in another state or United States territory, and have completed a specialty dentistry program or advance dental training in a clinical field approved by CODA.

Temporary Volunteer Dental License

A temporary volunteer dental license is intended for dental providers who are actively licensed to practice dentistry in another state, to volunteer at events held in Pennsylvania, without receipt of personal remuneration.

Temporary Volunteer Licenses may be issued as:

- One 30-day temporary license per calendar year **or**
- No more than three 10-day temporary licenses per calendar year

Applicants must include all pertinent information relating to the event at which they will be volunteering, including an announcement or letter from the event provider that includes the event information when submitting their application.

The application request should be submitted to the Board office at least 60 days prior to the requested event (start) date.

License by Reciprocity

License by reciprocity is based on an agreement between or among licensing jurisdictions in which each agrees to issue licenses to applicants who hold the same type of license in the other jurisdiction, usually based on an assessment that their licensing requirements are similar. Dentists from states in which Pennsylvania has reciprocity may apply for a Pennsylvania license.

Provisional License

A provisional license is for dentists who hold a current license from another state, territory or country whose licensing requirements are substantially equivalent to Pennsylvania's requirements. A dentist will also have to demonstrate competency and satisfy several additional requirements. A license is granted to an applicant who holds the same type of license in another licensing jurisdiction with substantially equivalent licensing requirements, without regard as to whether the other jurisdiction would do the same. A provisional license enables a dentist to begin practicing in Pennsylvania for a limited period of time while satisfying any outstanding requirements or issues that remain, and for the licensing board to then make its determination whether to issue or deny the standard license.

Renewal and Reactivation

Dentists are required to renew their licenses every two years, beginning April 1 of each odd-numbered year. In that two-year period, dentists must obtain the necessary credit hours of continuing education and complete any training requirements for their licensure type.

For more information regarding CE and training requirements, please visit the PDA website at: <https://www.padental.org/docs/Website/EventsCE/ComplyingWithCEandTrainingReq202123.pdf>

Dentists who fail to renew their license must comply with the following if applying for reactivation:

- Pay the current biennial renewal fee.
- Provide evidence of having current CPR certification.
- Submit a notarized affidavit identifying the period of which in which he/she did not practice dentistry in Pennsylvania.
- Provide evidence of having completed the continuing education requirements for the renewal periods in which the license was not renewed.

Dentists who fail to renew for more than five years may be required to retake a clinical licensing examination.