



SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR SNG WEE HOCK

1. On 13 January 2017, the Honourable Justice of Appeal Tay Yong Kwang heard an appeal filed by Dr Sng Wee Hock ("**Dr Sng**") in the High Court against the 15-month suspension and fine of \$40,000 ordered by the Disciplinary Committee ("**DC**") in an inquiry held by the Singapore Dental Council ("**SDC**") against Dr Sng for the improper delegation of dental procedures. Mr Chia Voon Jiet and Ms Koh Choon Min of Drew & Napier LLC represented the SDC at the DC inquiry and the appeal.
2. The High Court dismissed Dr Sng's appeal and upheld the suspension and fine ordered by the DC. Dr Sng was also ordered to pay the costs of the SDC in the appeal.

DC Inquiry

3. Dr Sng is a dentist who practices under the name of "WH Dental Surgeons" located in Punggol, Hougang and Selatar. WH Dental Surgeons also used to operate a clinic located in Serangoon North.
4. At the DC Inquiry, Dr Sng faced 14 charges of professional misconduct under the Dental Registration Act (Cap. 76) for delegating the administration of various orthodontic treatments and procedures on his patient to his unqualified dental assistants in breach of Paragraph 4.1.1.4 of the SDC's Ethical Code and Guidelines 2006.
5. The Inquiry was heard before DC on 25 July 2016.
6. Dr Sng pleaded guilty to four charges relating to the following procedures: (a) cementing of molar bands; (b) bonding of loose brackets; (c), placing occlusal glass ionomer cements; and (d) removal of orthodontic arch wires. Dr Sng also consented to the remaining 10 charges being taken into consideration for the purpose of sentencing.
7. The DC took the view that the delegation of orthodontic treatments and procedures to unqualified persons is a serious offence that could result in adverse repercussions for the patients. The DC elected to send a clear message to all practitioners that such illegal practice shall not and will not be condoned, and ordered that Dr Sng:
 - (a) be suspended for a period of 15 months;
 - (b) be fined \$40,000;
 - (c) be censured for the lapse;

- (d) to provide a written undertaking to the SDC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of, or any similar conduct; and
- (e) to pay the costs and expenses of, and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the counsel to the SDC and the Legal Assessor.

High Court Appeal

8. Dr Sng filed an appeal to the High Court against the DC's decision to order a 15-month suspension and a fine of \$40,000. On 13 January 2017, the High Court upheld the DC's orders and dismissed Dr Sng's appeal. Dr Sng's suspension will take effect from 24 February 2017.

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13 January 2017