

## **SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY AGAINST DR. SNG WEE HOCK**

25 July 2016

### **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Djeng Shih Kien (Chairman)  
Dr Raymond Ang  
Dr Ong Meng Ann Marriane  
A/Prof Victor Savage (Layperson)

### **LEGAL ASSESSOR:**

Mr Giam Chin Toon S.C.

### **COUNSEL for SDC (M/s Drew & Napier LLC):**

Mr Chia Voon Jiet  
Ms Koh Choon Min

### **COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT (M/s MyintSoe & Selvaraj):**

Mr S Selvaraj  
Mr Edward Leong Hoy Kok

### **DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

1. Dr Sng Wee Hock (the Respondent) a dentist practising under the name of WH Dental Surgeons was charged with 14 breaches categorised under Para 4.1.1.4 of the Singapore Dental Council's Ethical Code of Guidelines 2006, and thereby was guilty of professional misconduct under Section 40(1) (d) of the Dental Registration Act (Cap 76, 2009 Rev Ed.)
2. The 14 charges are laid out in the Notice of Inquiry by Disciplinary Committee (DC) of the Singapore Dental Council dated 20th November 2015 a copy of which is found in the Prosecution Bundle of Documents at Tab 21. Prosecution applied to amend Charge No.2 and the amendment was allowed by the DC.
3. The Respondent pleaded guilty to 4 charges, namely, Charge Nos 2, 5, 8 and 13 and accepts the other 10 charges to be taken into consideration.
4. The Prosecution submitted an agreed statement of facts setting out the facts of the case to which the Respondent admits. The DC finds him guilty as charged.
5. The Prosecution in addressing the DC on sentence, tendered Prosecution's Sentencing Submissions which inter alia made the following points:

- a. The Respondent's abdication of his professional responsibilities to his dental assistants is a serious offence.
  - b. Based on the 4 charges to which the Respondent had pleaded guilty he had delegated 4 distinct procedures on 4 occasions to unqualified persons.
  - c. Respondent has a previous conviction. He was found guilty of professional misconduct for misrepresenting to a patient that the cost of a dental implant procedure could be fully claimed from the Medisave account. The misrepresentation was deliberate and intentional.
  - d. The Respondent's acts of delegation are serious as he had put the complainant's wellbeing at risk. They were not mere errors of judgment
6. The Respondent's lawyers in their skeletal Submissions for Mitigation submitted that:
  - a. The 4 charges in essence relate to various components for the sole procedure of orthodontic treatment.
  - b. The treatment provided was well within the prescribed standards. The Complainant was agitated with the waiting time she had to undergo during each visit which gave her a distorted impression of the Respondent.
  - c. The Respondent produced several testimonials and character references for the DC to consider.
7. Orthodontic treatment not done properly by trained professionals can give rise to serious and damaging side effects. It should not be carried out by untrained and unqualified persons.
8. We would like to send a clear message to the profession that illegal practice and delegation of duties to unqualified persons is a serious breach of the Dental Registration Act and amounts to professional misconduct.
9. Taking into consideration the submissions by the Prosecution and the Respondent, we hereby order as follows:
  - a. The Respondent be suspended for a period of 15 months.
  - b. A fine of \$40,000 be paid by the Respondent.
  - c. The Respondent be censured.
  - d. The Respondent gives a written undertaking to Singapore Dental Council that he will not engage in the conduct complained of.
  - e. The Respondent pays the costs and expenses of, and incidental to these proceedings including costs of counsel to the SOC and the Legal Assessor.
10. Pursuant to Regulation 25 of the Dental Registration Regulations, we order that the grounds of our decision be published, for the benefit of the public and to provide a deterrent effect.

11. The hearing is hereby concluded.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.

**Dr Djeng Shih Kien**

Chairperson, Disciplinary Committee

**Dr Raymond Ang**

Member, Disciplinary Committee

**Dr Ong Meng Ann Marianne**

Member, Disciplinary Committee