

# Alberta Dental Association and College Hearing Tribunal Decision

December 11, 2019

## IN ACCORDANCE WITH BYLAW 20(1) OF THE ALBERTA DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND COLLEGE

On December 11, 2019, a Hearing Tribunal of the Alberta Dental Association and College found Dr. Christine Foreman guilty of unprofessional conduct and she was sanctioned. Dr. Foreman admitted to unprofessional conduct. A Hearing Tribunal is an independent group comprised of a member of the public appointed by the Government of Alberta and three dentists registered in Alberta.

The Hearing Tribunal noted that the hearing was in relation to a root canal procedure provided by Dr. Foreman on a patient's tooth 37 that was perforated during treatment. She relied on a periapical radiograph taken almost three years prior to the date of treatment and a bitewing radiographs taken prior to treatment that did not provide appropriate imaging for a contemporary diagnosis. The Hearing Tribunal noted that no pre-treatment radiographs were acceptable. They decided that Dr. Foreman proceeded with endodontic treatment on tooth 37 without appropriate diagnostic records.

The Hearing Tribunal also noted that Dr. Foreman failed to create or maintain appropriate patient records and noted the deficiencies, including:

- She did not have any documentation of informed consent, including what was discussed in relation to the risks and benefits of treatment;
- She had insufficient detail about the anesthetic/medication prescribed, including the dose and route of administration;
- She did not have any references to instructions provided for follow-up care;
- She had inappropriate detail about the materials used in treatment and placed in the tooth; and
- She did not note the perforation of tooth 37.

The Hearing Tribunal accepted the Joint Submission on Penalty and issued the following orders against Dr. Foreman:

1. A suspension of two weeks, to be served in one continuous period; and
2. Costs of the investigation and hearing of \$14,000.