

Section 2

Governance of Denturists in British Columbia

This section provides a brief history of denturist governance and a graphic representation of the legal framework for denturist practice in British Columbia.

Governance of Denturists in British Columbia

Introduction

Effective December 5, 1995, governance of denturists in British Columbia was repealed from the *Dental Technicians and Denturists Act* and established under the *Health Professions Act*. The governing body created under the authority of this *Act* is the College of Denturists of British Columbia.

Responsibility for "self-regulation" by a profession has been delegated by government to members of that profession with the understanding that they have the specific expertise to govern appropriately. The privilege of setting one's own rules emphasizes the important responsibility of ensuring that risk to the public is minimized.

Health Professions Act

The *Health Professions Act*, passed in 1990, provides legislation under which health professions will regulate themselves in this province. It allows for the establishment of colleges, sets out the responsibilities of boards of those colleges, and provides general direction regarding requirements for governing the members of the profession.

The *Health Professions Act* establishes the Health Professions Council. The Council is specifically tasked with the responsibility of reviewing any health profession applying to be regulated under this *Act* and recommending to the Minister of Health whether or not it is in the public interest for that health profession to be designated under this *Act*.

The Health Professions Council also may recommend to the Minister of Health the services that are allowed to be performed by a health profession and limitations on the performance of these services by registrants of that health profession. A copy of the *Health Professions Act* may be found in Section 10 of this handbook.

Denturists Regulation

On recommendation of the Minister of Health, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, designate a health profession under the *Health Professions Act*. This regulation is specific to each health profession and may prescribe the name used by the body as well as the services that registrants may perform, including limitations and conditions on these services. A copy of the Denturists Regulation may be found in Section 10 of this handbook.

Bylaws

Each college designated by regulation under the *Health Professions Act* is required to create bylaws for the operation of the college. The *Health Professions Act* specifically lists the areas and tasks these bylaws may regulate for the college. Bylaws require approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council by an Order in Council.

The initial bylaws of the College of Denturists of British Columbia were approved by the Lieutenant Governor on December 4, 1996. Bylaw amendments were approved in June 1999 and June 2000.

These bylaws establish the operational framework of the governing board, and include the duties and responsibilities of the board, qualifications required by registrants, investigation and discipline of registrants, standards of practice, and code of ethics. Registrants are encouraged to become familiar with these bylaws. The most current version is to be kept in Section 9 of this handbook.

Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy Act

The College is a public body under this Act. Many documents are public and releasable under this Act. Public documents are available from the College's website. If documentation that you wish is not available there, please submit a written request to the Registrar indicating the records you are requesting.

Legal Framework for the Practice of Denturism

Health Professions Act

Legislation that allows denturists, as a health profession, to be self-regulated.

Describes the duties and responsibilities of a college to the public and to the registrants.

Copy of the *Act* may be found in Section 10.

Denturists Regulation

Legislation which designates the College of Denturists as the governing body for denturists under the *Health Professions Act*.

Establishes the services and limitations on services provided by the denturist profession.

Copy of the Regulation may be found in Section 10.

College of Denturists Bylaws

Governs the operation of the College as well as the registration and licensure of denturists in British Columbia.

Copy of the Bylaws may be found in Section 9.

Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy Act

The College is a public body under this Act.