

ESTABLISH AND MANAGE A VOLUNTEER DENTAL CLINIC



"People Helping People"

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Florida Statutes Provide:

1. For a non-profit dental permit
 - A. **To be renewed yearly.**
 - B. Allows unlicensed dentists to work after a patient is screened by a Florida licensed dentist.

Requires the unlicensed dentist to obtain specific CME's (CPR, HIV and Domestic Violence) before starting.

2. For a Limited License for dentists who are not licensed in Florida
 - A. Application process (samples available)
 - B. Must maintain same CME requirements as a full Florida license.

To Obtain a Non-Profit Corporation Permit (Fl. St. 64B5-7.006)

1. You must submit a copy of the non-profit's charter, and proof of registration with IRS as a non-profit.
2. Justification for need to provide dental services by dentists not licensed in Florida.
3. A plan of operation showing how the non-licensed dentists will practice under general supervision of a Florida licensed dentist.
(Protocols!) (Dental Director!)
4. A site plan – equipment to be used – description of physical plant.
5. You must state you are serving people under 200% of federal poverty guidelines.



1. Prior to submission of this application to the Board, you should have at least one Florida licensed dentist and one unlicensed dentist willing to volunteer.
2. Before any dentist can volunteer in Florida, you must submit (as the sponsoring agency) a copy of their CPR card, HIV and Domestic Violence credits, CV if possible, and a copy of their diploma and specialty certificate.

Mail packet to:

**Florida Department of Health
Board of Dentistry
4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin#C-08
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3258**

Limited Licenses for Dentists

1. Complete a Limited License application – Request directly from Florida Board of Health as they are frequently revised.
- 2. The dentist must have practiced in the U.S. for at least 10 years.**
3. He/she must not be under any disciplinary restrictions.
4. The dentist must comply with all continuing education requirements. (same as active dentist – 30 credits every two years, plus 2 credits for Rules and Ethics, 1 credit Domestic Violence, 1 credit HIV/AIDS).
5. Sponsoring agency must provide a notarized statement that the dentist will receive no monetary compensation, and request the licensure fee be waived.

1. Limited licensees may only serve the indigent population. (under 200% federal poverty level)
2. Limited license dentists may obtain a DEA license and write prescriptions.
3. Limited licenses are renewed every 2 years and the fee can be waived if the dentist is volunteering and serving people under 200% of federal poverty level.



Per 64B5-12.0185 Standards for Board Approval of Pro Bono Programs

You may request the Board of Dentistry to approve your agency to provide continuing education credits for your dentists. These credits are based on tracking their volunteer hours.

Records must be retained for 4 years.

- There is no firm amount of hours the board approves – that appears to be up to the sponsoring agency.**

Statute Citation

s. 768.28, F.S.

Description

Waiver of sovereign immunity

Applicability/Comments

The basic statute providing sovereign immunity to the state or any of its agencies or subdivisions.

Statute Citation

s. 110.504(4), F.S.

Description

State volunteers

Applicability/Comments

Provides sovereign immunity protection to volunteers of the state. Specific procedures to be followed are outlined in a procedures manual HRSM 125-1. Requires time sheets, job descriptions, evaluations, etc. (Public Health Department)

Statute Citation

s. 766.1115, F.S.

Description

Volunteer Health Care

Applicability/Comments

**Provides sovereign immunity for specified licensed volunteer health care providers. Specific statutory requirements. A written contract is required. Patients must be eligible. (Extends immunity to physicians and dentists in their own offices)
(Contact your Public Health Department)**



Related Statutes

Statute Citation

s. 768.13, F.S.

Description

Good Samaritan Act

Applicability/Comments

Immunity from civil liability. Provides that any person providing emergency care, “shall not be held liable for civil damages”. Also applies to non-profit medical facilities, and health screenings. Reasonably prudent standard.

Statute Citation

s. 768.135, F.S.

Description

Volunteer Team Physicians

Applicability/Comments

Immunity from civil liability for care provided at an athletic event. Physician must be licensed under chapter 458, 459, 460, 461, or 466. Reasonably prudent standard.



Statute Citation

s. 284.31, F.S.

Description

Scope of Risk Management

Applicability/Comments

Risk Management is to “cover all Management departments of the state of Florida and their employees, agents and volunteers”.

Equipping a Dental Operator

BASICS:

1. Chair
2. Light
3. X-ray machine (is inspected yearly)
4. X-ray developer
5. Dental unit including handpiece and suction
6. Extra handpieces (need cleaning/sterilizing between patients)
7. Autoclave
8. Prophy instruments (mirror, explorer, scaler)
9. Extractors (different styles and angles, depending on which tooth)
10. Approximately \$24,000 to set up an operator

There are portable self-contained dental units. (All handpieces, slow speed, high speed, self-contained water, suction bottle - \$5,000).

Remember!

Anyone with a background in Health Care can work as a dental clinic aide. You will have difficulty finding retired dental assistants to volunteer. The dentist does all the work in the patient's mouth. The aide sets up, cleans up, sterilizes and holds the suction when needed.

Check with your local dental hygienist association. Often, members are willing to volunteer!



Guess What??

Funding a dental clinic that serves needy patients is somewhat easy!!

- Foundations love the idea!
- Individual philanthropists give money freely to dental clinics.
- Your local dental association may help with funding, or you may even get local dentists to donate hours! Go Talk To Them!
- Your patients could also leave “donations”, if you do not have fees.
- Start-up monies are usually easy to obtain. (Put donor names on the clinic, or offer rooms for individual donors or groups to sponsor.
- Don't forget to set money aside for maintenance of dental equipment. (Unless you have a “friend” who is mechanically inclined!)

Conclusion

Start small, one Operator,
a couple of dentists, one part-time
coordinator (can be a nurse).

All other clinic staff can be volun-
teers.

If you have space, let your clinic
grow as you acquire more volun-
teers.

It Can Be Done!



Remember! Outcomes are the benefits for participants after program activities.

- New knowledge (understands dental hygiene).
- Increased skills (brushes more).
- Changed attitudes (importance of dental care to general health and well-being).
- Improved condition (better oral health)
- Altered status (improved self-esteem, better general health).