

College of Dental Technologists of Alberta
Hearing Tribunal Decision Summary

May 30, 2025

On April 4, 2025, a Hearing Tribunal of the College of Dental Technologists of Alberta ("CDTA") accepted Mr. Daniel Zeng's ("Mr. Zeng") admission of guilt and determined it constituted unprofessional conduct and imposed sanctions. The Hearing Tribunal is composed of two members of the CDTA who are each a Registered Dental Technologist ("RDT") and two members of the public, appointed by the Government of Alberta.

The Hearing Tribunal found that Mr. Zeng:

1. Acted beyond the scope of his practice by engaging in restricted activities including providing intra oral patient care to a particular patient, particulars of which include inserting fingers into patient mouth to assess the fit and rocking tendency of the partial upper denture and engaged in the restricted activity of prescribing or fitting a fixed or removable partial or complete denture, without authorization, contrary to the HPA.
2. Failed to abide by the suspension ordered by a previous Hearing Tribunal, and provided professional services to the public, while his practice permit was suspended.

In the decision, the Hearing Tribunal found that the above actions demonstrated a lack of knowledge and judgment on the part of Mr. Zeng.

In addition, the Hearing Tribunal found that this conduct breached various provisions of the *Health Professions Act* RSA 2000, c. H-8 ("the HPA"), *Code of Ethics* and the *Standards of Practice* applicable to Mr. Zeng, and was also a breach of another enactment, the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*, Alta Reg 22/2023.

Finally, the Hearing Tribunal found that this was conduct that harmed the integrity of the profession, as the public expects a self-regulating profession such as this, and each of its members, to be careful to stay within the bounds of practice. It is the job of the professional to know and to maintain these boundaries. By going beyond the proper scope of his practice Mr. Zeng compromised the integrity of the profession. In addition, by failing to abide by the ordered suspension, Mr. Zeng signaled to the public and to other members of this profession that he did not respect the governance and authority of that Hearing Tribunal, which even more severely damaged the integrity of the regulated profession.

Orders of the Hearing Tribunal:

The Hearing Tribunal accepted a Joint Submission on Penalty from the parties and issued the following orders on sanction:

1. Mr. Zeng shall receive a reprimand and the Hearing Tribunal's written decision (the "Decision") shall serve as the reprimand.
2. Mr. Zeng's practice permit will be suspended for a period of three (3) months.
 - (a) In the event that the Hearing Tribunal is able to issue an oral decision on the date of the hearing, the suspension will commence on the day of the hearing.
 - (b) In the event that the Hearing Tribunal is not able to issue an oral decision on the date of the hearing, the suspension will commence on the date of service of the Decision.
3. As required by section 119(1) of the Act, the Hearing Tribunal's decision shall be published on the CDTA's website, in the CDTA's newsletter, and reported at the CDTA's Annual General Meeting with Mr. Zeng identified by name.
4. Mr. Zeng shall complete the following remedial education, at his own cost, and shall provide the Complaints Director with documentation confirming successful completion with **six (6) months** of the Decision:
 - (a) IPHE201 – Professionalism and Ethics for Healthcare Professionals (offered online through NAIT).

If such course becomes unavailable, an equivalent course may be substituted where approved in advance in writing by the Complaints Director.
5. Mr. Zeng shall pay 50% of the costs of the investigation and the hearing in this matter to a maximum of \$15,000.00 within twenty-four (24) months of the date of service of the Decision.
6. Mr. Zeng shall be responsible for the costs associated with up to four (4) inspections that CDTA may undertake to ensure compliance with this order in the 24-month period from the date of service of the Decision up to a maximum of \$500 per inspection, payable within 30 days of receipt of an invoice from CDTA.
7. Should Mr. Zeng be unable to comply with any of the deadlines for completion of the penalty orders identified above, Mr. Zeng may request an extension by submitting to the Complaints Director, prior to the deadline, a request in writing stating a reason for requesting the extension and a reasonable time frame for completion. The Complaints Director shall, in her sole discretion, determine whether a time extension will be granted and will notify Mr. Zeng in writing if the extension has been granted.

8. Should Mr. Zeng fail or be unable to comply with any of the above orders for penalty, or if any dispute arises regarding the implementation of these orders, the Complaints Director may do any or all of the following:
- (a) Refer the matter back to the Hearing Tribunal, which shall retain jurisdiction with respect to penalty;
 - (b) Treat Mr. Zeng's non-compliance as information under s. 56 of the Act and seek an immediate interim suspension in accordance with s. 65 of the Act; or
 - (c) In the case of non-payment of the costs described in paragraph 5 above, suspend Mr. Zeng's practice permit until such costs are paid in full or the Complaints Director is satisfied that such costs are being paid in accordance with a schedule of payments agreed to by the Complaints Director.