

Community education provided by Dental Hygienists and Registered Dental Assistants – Advisory Opinion.

Pursuant to SDCL § 36-6A-1, dental hygienists and registered dental assistants, pursuant to their scope and course of practice, may provide educational services. Dental hygienists and registered dental assistants may also provide education to the general public while they are not operating under their respective license or registration.

It is the opinion of the Board that dental hygienists and registered dental assistants may speak to their training and experience while providing education to the general public when they are not operating under their respective license or registration if they provide a disclaimer that they are not operating under their scope of practice as a dental hygienist or registered dental assistant.

Dental hygienists and registered dental assistants providing general education while they are not operating under their respective license or registration is not independent practice.

This advisory opinion was rendered by the Board upon submission of a written request. Although advisory opinions are not judicially reviewable and do not have the force and effect of law, they do serve as a guideline for dental hygienists who wish to engage in safe dental practices. This advisory opinion was adopted at the regular meeting of the South Dakota Board of Dentistry on January 11, 2019.