



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of  
Commerce, Community and  
Economic Development**

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS  
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
Board of Dental Examiners

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April 8, 2020

Brent Tingey, DDS, MS  
President, Alaska State Society of Orthodontists  
1407 W 31st Avenue, Suite 304 Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Dr. Tingey,

The Alaska Board of Dental Examiners (Board) met on April 8th, 2020. During the meeting we were able to discuss your letter dated March 24th, 2020 and are able to offer you the following opinion. Your concern that the specialty of orthodontics has several procedures that are not specifically mentioned in the American Dental Association's guidelines for what constitutes a dental emergency is well founded. The Dental Board's opinion, however, is that the current ADA guidelines posted on the State of Alaska's COVID-19 website does address your concern. The area in the guidelines listing non-emergency dental procedures describes the following:

\*Orthodontic procedures other than those to address acute issues (e.g. pain, infection, trauma) or other issues critically necessary to prevent harm to the patient.

It is the Board's opinion that the procedures listed in your letter would qualify as exceptions mentioned above and has been approved by the Department of Health and Social Services as meeting the intent of COVID-19 Health Mandate 006:

- Removal or adjustment of active orthodontic appliances, including those designed for tooth movement and those designed to influence skeletal growth,
- Management of surgically exposed teeth,
- Management of patients recovering from orthognathic surgery,
- Management and treatment of infections due to poor oral hygiene.

The Board expects orthodontists to use their professional judgement as to what is "critically necessary to prevent harm" to their patients. The Board hopes this helps clarify your concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Nielson".

David Nielson, DDS  
President, Alaska Board of Dental Examiner