



NEWS RELEASE

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10 Arrested for Unlicensed Practice of Dentistry in Undercover Operation

*Dental Board of California, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Joint Enforcement Effort Leads to Arrests*

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The California Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) [Dental Board of California](#) (Board), working in conjunction with the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Radiation Management Program](#), recently conducted a successful undercover sting operation in Southern California resulting in 10 arrests for the unlicensed practice of dentistry.

The Board conducted a nine-day Southern California Undercover Dentistry (SCUD) operation in Los Angeles County last month. As a result, eight individuals were arrested for practicing dentistry without a license, and two were arrested for aiding and abetting the practice of dentistry without a license. The individuals may now face fines up to \$3,000 or imprisonment in the county jail, or both. Sworn Board investigators involved in the operation made the arrests.

The Board's highest priority is the protection of the public. It is illegal for anyone to engage in the practice of dentistry in California or to represent themselves to the public as a dentist unless they are licensed by the Board. Not only is unlicensed activity illegal, but it also poses great danger to consumer health

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and safety. Consumers are urged to never do business with or receive treatment from unlicensed individuals.

Consumers can report unlicensed or concerning activity by filing a complaint with the Board online at www.dbc.ca.gov (click on the "Consumers" tab) or by calling toll-free (877) 729-7789. California consumers can also verify a dental professional's license by using DCA's license search page at <https://search.dca.ca.gov>.

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ABOUT THE DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA: *The Dental Board of California licenses and regulates approximately 104,000 dental professionals, including dentists, registered dental assistants, and registered dental assistants in extended functions. The Board issues different types of permits to administer dental anesthesia and sedation, as well as orthodontic assistant and dental sedation assistant permits, and approves dental assisting educational programs and courses required for practice, licensure, and continuing education. Learn more at www.dbc.ca.gov.*

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS: *The California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) protects consumers through oversight, enforcement, and licensure of professions, and helps consumers learn how to protect themselves from unscrupulous and unqualified individuals. Consumers can verify a license and file a complaint against a licensee online at www.dca.ca.gov or by phone at (800) 952-5210.*