Any loss of your natural teeth is a regrettable occurrence. Fortunately, it is one that can be remedied with excellent results. Today’s denturists apply all their skill and knowledge to provide you with a substitute which perfectly suits both the shape of your mouth and your smile - one which, with proper care, you will learn to live with quite comfortably.

You may check on the license status of a denturist in Oregon by contacting the Health Licensing Office, 503-378-8667 ext. 4300

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

You have the right to file a written complaint with the Health Licensing Office. Complaint forms can be downloaded from the agency’s website, www.hlo.state.or.us.

That complaint will be processed by Regulatory Operations Division staff followed by a possible investigation by an enforcement officer. License holders could face civil fines or potential license sanctions imposed by the Oregon Board of Denture Technology if found to be in violation of state standards. Unlicensed denturists could also face civil fines and possible criminal charges.

If you have questions about enforcement of state regulations, please contact the Health Licensing Office Regulatory Operations Division at 503-378-8667 extension 4310 or by e-mail to hlo.info@state.or.us

Consumer’s Bill of Rights

All consumers receiving services offered by Oregon professionals licensed, certified or registered by the Health Licensing Office have a legal right to:

- Receive competent professional services
- Verify the names, titles and credentials of professionals providing services
- Receive clear explanations of the services offered and cost for the services
- Refuse any services offered
- Receive information on complaints that have resulted in final action
- File a complaint with the Health Licensing Office regarding a practitioner, facility, or an unlicensed/ uncertified person practicing
- Request reasonable accommodations to access professional services as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Be treated with courtesy and respect
- Have service options and consequences explained

Additional copies of this brochure may be ordered from the Health Licensing Office.
The profession of Denture Technology is licensed by the State of Oregon. A licensed denturist is a health care professional committed to improving your life through precise crafting of full dental prosthetics, better known as dentures.

Denturists serve as partners in your overall dental health along with dentists, orthodontists and oral surgeons. It is important to understand the regulations that govern denturists in Oregon.

**Denture Technology**

The Differences Between Dentists and Denturists

Several differences exist between a dentist and a denturist. A dentist holds a medical degree in dentistry and practices under a license issued by the State Board of Dentistry. A denturist is a professional who has completed at least an Associate level degree program in denture technology (although many post-secondary programs also go beyond that minimum standard) and has met licensing standards established by the Board of Denture Technology. In fact, any professional using the title “denturist” in Oregon must be licensed through the Health Licensing Office to legally use that title.

Oral Pathology

Denturists must first receive an Oral Health Certificate signed by a Dentist or Medical Doctor stating the patient’s mouth is free from disease and able to accept a denture before treating a patient, **UNLESS** the denturist has an “Oral Pathology” endorsement on their license.

A majority of denturists in Oregon carry an “Oral Pathology” endorsement, and thus can supply the denture treatment without a physician’s exam. Ask your denturist about the requirement. They will be able to explain what steps you will need to follow to receive the treatment plan that will fit your needs exactly.

A dentist’s exam is not needed to repair, reline or replace a denture.

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR DENTURES? CONTACT YOUR DENTURIST WITH YOUR CONCERNS FIRST TO WORK THROUGH POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Continuing Education

In every profession, there is a need to keep the licensed professional at a high level of quality work and to learn about new advances in dental science. The licensed denturist is required to obtain at least thirty (30) hours of continuing education every three years to maintain their state-issued license.

Consumer Protection

The Health Licensing Office was created by the 1999 Legislature to ensure consumer protection for the nine occupations regulated by the agency. Denturists in Oregon face stiff penalties, even potential license revocation, for a number of illegal practices, including:

- Deceptive/false advertising
- Substance or alcohol use that impairs the practice of denture technology
- Fraud or misrepresentation
- Gross negligence
- Conviction of crimes which are related to the practice of denture technology

If you believe a denturist may have violated a law, contact the Health Licensing Office immediately.

Clean Facilities

The denturist operates a professional office, and should adhere to state standards for keeping their facility clean. Look around— the service areas should be clean and well-maintained, any surfaces which could come into contact with bodily fluids are promptly disinfected, and the office has restroom facilities and a water supply which meets plumbing codes. Animals are not permitted in a facility unless they are a trained guide or assistance animal.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT LICENSED DENTURISTS

Before seeking out a licensed denturist in Oregon, it’s important to understand how these professionals are different from other dental care providers.

Oregon’s laws define denture technology as the construction, repair, relining, reproducing, duplicating, supplying, fitting or altering a full dental prosthesis. In addition to the dental device, the denturist also takes impressions, bite registrations, try-ins or insertions.

Full vs. Partial Dentures

Under current Oregon Laws, denturists may only construct full dentures, and are not permitted to create partial dentures to correct appearance from the isolated loss of a tooth (or several teeth).