



SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

c/o Secretariat of healthcare Professional Boards (SPB)
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SDC Circular No. 1/2022

15 February 2022

To: ALL REGISTERED DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

USE OF REGISTERED NAMES IN ALL PUBLICITY MATERIALS

The Singapore Dental Council (Council) has noted that some dental practitioners (dentists and oral health therapists) are using names which are not registered with the Council in the course of their communication with patients as well as on publicity materials (e.g., stationery, name card, signboard and clinic's website) and social media platforms.

2 Under section 13(1)¹ of the Dental Registration Act (CAP 76) (DRA), the Registrar of the Council maintains the Registers containing the dental practitioners' names, addresses of place of practice, qualifications and other particulars. Pursuant to section 13(3)(b)² of the DRA, a list containing some of the information on the Registers is available online on the Council's website.

3 To ensure that members of the public are not misled by the information that dental practitioners provide relating to their practice, Council would like to remind all dental practitioners to **only** use the name which they have registered with the Council in the course of communication with patients as well as on publicity materials and social media platforms. If dental practitioners have changed their name officially via a deed poll, they

¹ Registers

13.— (1) The Registrar shall maintain and keep the following registers:

- (a) a register to be called the "Register of Dentists" containing —
 - (i) in the first division of the register —
 - (A) under Part I, the names of persons registered as fully registered dentists under section 14(1) & (2);
 - (B) under Part II, the names of persons registered as dentists with conditional registration under section 14A(1);
- (b) a register to be called the "Register of Temporarily Registered Dentists" containing —
 - (i) the names of persons registered temporarily as dentists
- (c) a register to be called the "Register of Specialists" containing the names of persons registered as specialists
- (d) a register to be called the "Register of Oral Health Therapists" containing —
 - (i) under Part I, the names of persons registered as OHT under section 21A(1); and
 - (ii) under Part II, the names of persons registered as OHT under section 21A(2)

² Registers

13. (3) The Registrar shall —

- (b) publish on the Council's Internet website a list of the names, addresses, qualifications and dates of qualification of all dentists and oral health therapists who —
 - (i) are registered under this Act; and
 - (ii) have in force practising certificates.

must submit relevant supporting documents to Council to update their name in the Registers.

4 For further information, please refer to the Frequently-Asked-Questions (FAQs) at the Annex and the SDC's website. If you have questions which are not found in the FAQs, please email to the Council at SDC@spb.gov.sg.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chng Chai Kiat', written in a cursive style.

A/PROF CHNG CHAI KIAT
REGISTRAR, SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: What are the supporting documents I need to submit to Council to update my name on the Register?

A1: You would need to submit a certified true copy of your deed poll and NRIC (front and back) to SDC@spb.gov.sg reflecting the change of your name. Thereafter, your application will be processed within 2 weeks. A true copy must be certified by either the Human Resource Personnel of your current local employer or a Notary Public with an official stamp, the full name of the signatory and a professional designation.

Q2: Will the previous name of the dental practitioner be displayed on the online Register?

A2: No, the dental practitioner's previous name will no longer be displayed on the online Register.

Q3: I have an unofficial name/alias which patients know me by and do not intend to add it to my NRIC officially through a deed poll. The alias is printed on my clinic stationery, publicity materials and reflected on online platforms. Is this allowed?

A3: Dental practitioners should **only** use the name which they have registered with the Council and is listed in the Registers, in the course of communication with patients as well as on publicity materials and social media platforms.

Q4: Do I need to list my full name on my clinic's website and social media platforms?

A4: Dental practitioners should list the name registered with SDC on your clinic's website and social media platforms. To illustrate

Full name (registered with SDC)	Published version	Allowed / not allowed
Dr Tan Ying Ying	Dr Ying Ying Tan	Allowed
Dr Tan Ying Ying	Dr Cindy Tan Ying Ying	Allowed
Dr Tan Ying Ying	Dr Tan Y Y	Not allowed
Dr Tan Ying Ying	Dr Cindy Tan	Not allowed
Dr Tan Ying Ying Cindy	Dr Cindy Tan	Not allowed

Q5: Will disciplinary action(s) be taken against me if I do not use my registered name on publicity materials and social media platforms?

A5: Council will seek your explanation for non-adherence to the Circular. Repeated records of non-compliances will be taken into consideration when Council conducts its investigation.

Q6: Will disciplinary action(s) be taken against me if I do not update SDC on my particulars e.g., practice address or residential address?

A6: Pursuant to section 13(4) of the Dental Registration Act (DRA), dental practitioner whose name is entered in any of the registers shall inform the Registrar in writing of any change in his practice address or residential address within 28 days thereof. Pursuant to section 13(7) of the DRA, any person who fails to comply with subsection (4) is guilty of an offence.