



Practising Through a Corporation?

There are some things you should know...

Denturists are free to practise denturism in a variety of business models – sole ownership, partnership and through a corporation. All models have advantages and disadvantages. One of the advantages of practising through a corporation is the ability to maintain income in the corporation. However, Ontario legislation mandates that if a denturist wishes to practise through a corporation, it must be a **professional corporation**. In order to become a professional corporation, a denturist must obtain a Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the College of Denturists of Ontario.

If a denturist practices through a general corporation – and not a professional corporation – they are breaching Ontario legislation. This can result in a College investigation and a finding of professional misconduct.

In order to obtain a COA from the College of Denturists of Ontario, the professional corporation must comply with certain requirements set out in Regulation 39/02 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA). We describe them below:

- 1. Select a name for your professional corporation.** The name of the professional corporation must comply with legislative requirements. If the name of the professional corporation does not comply? A COA will not be issued.

The name of the professional corporation must include the following:

- a. At least one shareholder's surname as set out on the College register (i.e. the name of the denturist who is creating the professional corporation);
- b. The name of the shareholder's health profession, here, the word "Denturist" or "Denturism"; and
- c. The words "Professional Corporation".

The name may include the chosen shareholder(s)'s given name and initials.

Other than those mandatory and optional words, no other words are permissible. An acceptable example would be: "Jane Doe Denturist Professional Corporation".

Note that the officers and directors of the professional corporation must be shareholders, and all shareholders must be denturists holding a valid and current Certificate of Registration with the College. (Note that the rules for medical and dental professional corporations are different as they are permitted to issue shares to non-doctors and non-dentists.)

- 2. Incorporate your professional corporation** with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services by:
 - a. Preparing your Articles of Incorporation (see below) and corporate by-laws;
 - b. Paying a fee; and
 - c. Applying through a form.

Note that the corporation must be a provincial corporation and not a federal corporation.

- 3. The Articles of Incorporation** must indicate that your professional corporation will only carry on:
- Business of the practice of denturism as regulated by the College of Denturists of Ontario; and
 - Any activities related to (i.e., that flow naturally from) or ancillary to (i.e., supporting services like office management) the practice of denturism including the investment of surplus funds.

This means that the professional corporation can only practise denturism and ancillary activities. Dentistry, dental technology, and dental hygiene cannot be practised through a denturism professional corporation as they are separate professions. Only denturists can practise through a denturism professional corporation.

- 4.** Within 30 days of obtaining the certificate of status from the Ministry, your professional corporation **must apply to the College for a COA**. For more details, please refer to the College's "[COA Application Package](#)" on the College website.

Once again, if you are practicing through a corporation that is not a professional corporation and you have not obtained a COA, you are contravening Ontario legislation. Denturists cannot practice through a regular corporation. They must do so through a professional corporation with a valid COA.

Further, if you do practise through a professional corporation and have a valid COA, it is important to remember that only denturism can be practised through the professional corporation.

For more information on obtaining a COA and practicing through a professional corporation, [please consult the College website](#).

For more information on how to incorporate your professional corporation, please consult the [Service Ontario website](#).

Please know that the College cannot give legal or accounting advice to members on matters relating to incorporation; however, it can provide its position on certain regulatory matters. We encourage you to consult both a lawyer and an accountant to learn the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation and to determine if incorporation is the right financial and legal strategy for you.

Links to the following documents:

- [CDO Website - Health Profession Corporations and Applying for a Certificate of Authorization](#)
- [CDO Certificate of Authorization Application Package](#)
- [Service Ontario Website – Incorporating a Business Corporation](#)

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Callaway, Manager, Council and Corporate Services at 416-925-6331 ext. 226 or mcallaway@denturists-cdo.com.



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