

BEFORE THE DENTAL BOARD OF THE STATE OF IOWA

In the Matter of the Petition for Waiver by: Tatiana Montserrat Rodriguez Moreira, D.D.S. Petitioner.	ORDER GRANTING WAIVER
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Pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.9A and Iowa Administrative Code rule 481—6, the Dental Board (“Board”) makes the following ruling on the Petition for Waiver submitted by Tatiana Montserrat Rodriguez Moreira, D.D.S. (“Petitioner”).

FACTS AND COURSE OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Petitioner trained at Universidad Autónoma de Asunción, Paraguay and earned the professional degree of Dentist on March 17, 2009 after a five-year program.
2. Petitioner then completed a two-year graduate program in Implant Dentistry at Uninga from 2010 to 2012.
3. Petitioner maintains an active Paraguayan dental license.
4. Petitioner passed the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) and the ADEX clinical examination.
5. Petitioner completed a full academic year of advanced postgraduate clinical training at New York University College of Dentistry (CODA accredited school) in the Advanced Clinical Fellowship in Aesthetic Dentistry from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This training included 1,700 clinical hours comprising four consecutive terms of supervised direct patient care, together with clinical training and coursework in implantology, fixed prosthodontics, occlusion, dental ceramics, orofacial esthetics, prosthodontics, and dental laboratory technique.
6. Petitioner is now seeking to obtain an Iowa resident license.
7. Petitioner specifically seeks to waive Iowa Administrative Code chapter **481 – 572.4(1)** which states: “Applications for licensure of graduates of foreign dental schools shall include the following:
 - a. Evidence of successful completion of dental education that is substantially equivalent to a DDS or DMD degree issued by an accredited school. The applicant may demonstrate this by meeting one of the following requirements:

- (1) Successful completion of an undergraduate supplemental dental education program of at least two academic years at an accredited dental school and receipt of a dental diploma, degree or certificate substantially equivalent to a DDS or DMD degree;
- (2) Successful completion of a postgraduate general practice residency program of at least one academic year at an accredited dental college; or
- (3) Results of a formal evaluation of the applicant's foreign dental education by a board-approved professional credentialing organization. The results of the evaluation must indicate that the nonaccredited dental education completed was substantially equivalent to that of an accredited dental school."

8. The Board considered the Petition for Waiver at a board meeting on August 21, 2026.

APPLICABLE LAW

9. Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 481—6.1(3), the Board may in its sole discretion issue an order waiving in whole or in part the requirements of a rule if the board finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, all of the following:
 - a. The application of the rule would impose an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested;
 - b. The waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person;
 - c. The provisions of the rule subject to the petition for waiver are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and
 - d. Substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested.
10. "The burden of persuasion rests with the petitioner to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the board should exercise its discretion to grant a waiver from a board rule." 481 IAC 6.1(8)(b).
11. The Board's rules provide "The final decision on whether the circumstances justify the granting of a waiver is at the discretion of the department upon consideration of all relevant factors. Each petition for a waiver will be evaluated by the department based on the unique, individual circumstances set out in the petition." 481 IAC 6.1(8)(a).
12. "A waiver, if granted, shall provide the narrowest exception possible to the provisions of a rule." 481 IAC 6.1(8)(f).

ANALYSIS OF WAIVER CRITERIA

Whether the application of the rule would create an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested:

13. Application of the rule, if read to strictly require one of the elements in 572.4(1)(a), would cause undue hardship as Applicant would be denied a resident license despite demonstrating an extensive educational and clinical experience, including a postgraduate clinical training at a CODA-accredited school along with successfully passing the INBDE and ADEX examinations.

Whether the waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person:

14. Waiving the requirements of the rule would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any other person.

Whether the provision of the rule subject to the petition for waiver is not specifically mandated by another provision of law:

15. The requirement found in the Board's administrative rule is not specifically mandated by statute.

Whether substantially equal protection of the public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested:

16. The public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by other means if this waiver is granted. The rule requiring proof of educational equivalency is meant to ensure the applicant has the required credentials to practice safely in Iowa. Applicant here has demonstrated this via her continuation of practice in the past three years, her extensive dental education and clinical experience, and the successful completion of the INBDE and ADEX examinations.

**PETITIONER HAS MET THE CRITERIA TO
WAIVE RULE 481 IAC 572.4(1)(a)**

Upon review of the Petition, the Board finds that Petitioner has satisfied the four criteria for waiver of the requirements in 481 IAC 572.4(1)(a) for the reasons stated above.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the Petition for Waiver of 481 IAC 572.4(1)(a) is APPROVED.

Issued August 21, 2026.



Dr. James Nemmers, D.D.S.
Chairperson
Iowa Dental Board

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