



NEWS RELEASE

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DENTAL BOARD CRACKS DOWN ON UNLICENSED DENTIST

Repeat offender dentist arrested on felony charges

NORTH HOLLYWOOD – Investigators with the Department of Consumer Affairs Dental Board have arrested a North Hollywood man for felony unlicensed practice of dentistry.

Investigators with the Dental Board of California say North Hollywood resident, Juan Carlos Ortiz, had been working out of a back room of his house. He was arrested during a search at his home where investigators also seized dental equipment from his garage. In 2005, Ortiz was arrested by the Dental Board of California for unlicensed practice of dentistry, and Ortiz's prior conviction in that case makes this current offense a felony.

"Consumers in California are entitled to the assurance that dental care is provided by skilled, properly licensed dentists," said Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer of the Dental Board of California. "We will not tolerate imposters taking advantage of patients."

Operating on a tip, investigators conducted a two-month long undercover operation during which Ortiz treated an undercover investigator posing as a patient. Investigators say Ortiz had been preying on undocumented immigrants and people who could not afford dental insurance.

Ortiz is scheduled to be arraigned in Los Angeles County Superior Court August 8, 2012. The investigation into his case is ongoing and could result in charges against other individuals.

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The California Department of Consumer Affairs' Dental Board of California licenses more than 36,000 dentists. Consumers can report unlicensed activity, or verify a dentist's license, by calling the Dental Board at (916) 263-2300, or by visiting the Board's Web site at www.dbc.ca.gov.