



# UNREGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANTS

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR OFFICE

Effective July 1, 2025, dentists have the option to employ dental assistants who are registered or dental assistants who are not registered. Dentists need to be aware of what the new law does and does not do.

### WHAT THE NEW LAW DOES

**The new law allows dental assistants to work in Iowa without registering with the Iowa Dental Board.**

- Unregistered dental assistants will be required to complete on-the-job training under the supervision of a dentist.
- Unregistered dental assistants will have the same scope of practice as a registered dental assistant (except expanded functions and radiography).
- The Iowa Dental Board may require additional education and training to perform expanded functions or participate in radiography.
- **Dentists will be responsible for all actions performed by an unregistered dental assistant.**

### WHAT THE NEW LAW DOES NOT DO

**The new law does not allow unregistered dental assistants to work without proper training.**

- Unregistered dental assistants will continue to be required to learn and follow proper infection control protocols through OSHA and the CDC.
- Unregistered dental assistants will continue to be required to learn proper radiography safety standards and protocols, subject to board rules.

**The new law does not eliminate the need for ongoing training.**

- Unregistered dental assistants will not be required to take continuing education courses, unless required by the Iowa Dental Board for radiography and expanded functions, BUT they must maintain competency in all areas of their scope of practice through ongoing training (i.e., approved CE courses, in-office training, etc.).

## IMPORTANT NOTE

**The Iowa Dental Board will develop rules that may include the following:**

- Criteria for what is considered practical training.
- The education and training needed for radiography and expanded functions.
- Any additional responsibilities for dentists utilizing unregistered dental assistants.