

## Re: Husband's Bridge

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.dentistry/2004-06/1088.html>

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**From:** Dr. David Leader (*leaderdmd\_at\_juno.com*)

**Date:** 06/13/04

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This disclaimer?:

"This posting is intended for informational or conversational purposes only.  
Always seek the opinion of a licensed dental professional before acting on the advice or opinion expressed here. Only a dentist who has examined you in person can diagnose your problems and make decisions which will affect your health."

Dr. Eichen,

You may want to add to this disclaimer that dentists are not able to give legal advice. Another item to add is that laws, regulations and standards of care may vary depending on location. Then again, the disclaimer does not give us license to give bad advice or to impune our colleagues.

Maybe it would be better to follow the ADA's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct from Section 4.C. JUSTIFIABLE CRITICISM.

"...Patients should be informed of their present oral health status without disparaging comment about prior services. In other words we may say, "there is a problem with your bridge." We should not say, "...it's quite possible that the dental offices most eager to use ancillary personnel for this crucial procedure didn't take that much care with the preps to start with, so it wouldn't really matter ."

It's very difficult to give people helpful advice in this format. We usually don't have all of the necessary information. This thread is a good example.

Since we got the information 2nd hand, 2nd lay person hand, it is difficult to asses the reliability of the information. Was the bridge a temp? If so, many jurisdictions allow Certified or Registered dental

assistants to fabricate temps and cement them. The "...Illegal..." comment is without foundation since we don't know the actual procedure or the laws of the state.

The comment may get back to the patient 2nd hand as well. It could be transformed into, "Honey, a Dentist says that's illegal." Think of our colleague who now would have to take the time to explain the regulations of his state and how what he does in his office is not illegal. This could precipitate a complaint to the state dental society. If that happens, it may make work for the volunteer peer review committee in the treating dentist's district. All because of bad advice.

To the person who began this thread I remind you that you did not pay for any of the advice you have recieved.

David Leader, DMD

"Joel M. Eichen, D.D.S." <joeleichen@yahoo.com> wrote in message news:<r42nc09tieq84hti970o6o7sq423agjm4d@4ax.com>...

> *This is true. Please remember our DISCLAIMER.*

>

> *JOEL*

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