



Legal Requirements for Mobile Dental Providers

What Schools Need to Know

Why it matters for schools

Some schools have reported that parents or caregivers aren't receiving required information after a child is seen by a mobile dental facility (MDF). Ohio law spells out what MDFs must give to each patient's parent or caregiver. This overview helps schools understand what's required and how to make sure families get the information they're entitled to.

Read the full legal requirements for mobile dental facilities in Ohio Revised Code sections 4715.71 through 4715.73.

Read the Requirements >

codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4715.71

What counts as a Mobile Dental Facility (MDF)?

Under Ohio law, an MDF is:

1. A self-contained dental unit that travels to provide services, or
2. A temporary setup using portable dental equipment

The MDF must be operated by a licensed dentist who is registered with the Ohio State Dental Board (OSDB). Locate and verify a license [here](#).

Locate & Verify a License >

dental.ohio.gov/licensing-and-renewal/007-Certification-or-Verification-of-State-of-Ohio-Licensure

What information are parents and caregivers required to receive?

Except in a few specific situations, MDFs are legally required to give each patient—or the patient's parent or caregiver—a document containing six items:

- 1 **Who provided the care:** Names of those who arranged or performed services.
- 2 **Emergency contact:** A phone number to reach the MDF operator or representative.
- 3 **What was done:** A list of dental or hygiene services performed.
- 4 **Recommendations:** Any suggested follow-up care.
- 5 **Records notice:** A statement that full dental records are available as required by state and federal law.
- 6 **How to get records:** Instructions for requesting copies or transferring records.

Schools should expect MDFs to send this information home right after services are provided. It can be sent directly to parents or sent through the school for distribution.

EXCEPTIONS: When are MDFs not required to follow these requirements?

These requirements do not apply to a mobile dental facility if it only provides sealants and fluoride treatments and is run by one of the following:

- A school district or educational service center program
- A city or local health department
- Any other public or private program that is under contract by the Ohio Department of Health and recognized by the Ohio State Dental Board

See the Exceptions >

codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4715.73

In all other cases—if the MDF is doing cleanings, exams, or restorative work—the six-item notice must be provided.



What schools should do

- *Confirm what type of services the MDF will provide.*
- *Ask the MDF to confirm that parent/caregiver notices will be sent.*
- *Request a sample of the notice for the school's records.*
- *Keep contact information for the MDF's emergency and administrative offices.*
- *Follow up if parents report that they didn't receive the required information.*

If problems persist, the school can contact the Ohio State Dental Board to report concerns about noncompliance.

Contact the Ohio State Dental Board >

dental.ohio.gov/complaints-and-enforcement/file-a-complaint/01-file-a-complaint



Why this communication matters

These requirements ensure families know:

1. *Who treated their child*
2. *What care was provided*
3. *What follow-up may be needed*
4. *How to access or transfer records*



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Please share with school staff as appropriate and print for reference.

ALL LINKS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

> OralHealthOhio.org