

Student professionalism and fitness to practise Standards for the Dental Team Case studies

Principle 9

Make sure your personal behaviour maintains patients' confidence in you and the dental profession



Katy

Katy is a nineteen year old student dental nurse who has just started a dental nursing qualification but is worried about a past conviction for shoplifting.

Student dental nurse

Katy has been on her dental nurse training programme for one month and has realised that to become a registrant you have to declare any criminal convictions on your application form. She received a conviction for shoplifting when she was fifteen along with another friend she used to socialise with. After the conviction Katy changed her friendship group and completed her GCSEs. She then left school and worked in retail for two years before deciding she wanted to work with people in a health role. Katy is worried this means she won't be able to continue on her course and find the work she wants. She is currently employed as part of her training and also worried that if her employer finds out that she might lose her job.

What do you think Katy should do next?

Select an option:

- Worried about her job ask for advice from a friend
- Tell her training provider and/or employer

- Decide to say nothing until she has nearly completed the course as then it might be more difficult for her training provider or employer to do anything

See what Katy did next...

Katy told her training provider. She was open about what happened and why. She explained that it was a shock when she was arrested. As a result she reflected on the impact of her actions and changed her behaviour and friendships. She had no further convictions. She also admitted the conviction. As Katy was open and honest, had taken responsibility for her actions and not repeated this behaviour her training provider reassured her that this would not affect her place on the course but advised her to read the guidance on the GDC website as this may potentially affect her future registration. The seriousness of the offence was also taken into consideration. There are different rules for protected convictions if the offence was committed under the age of 18. Katy had to declare this on her GDC application form. Her tutor also emphasised the necessity for there to be no further cautions or convictions during her training.

Katy's tutor explained it is important for Katy to inform her employer too. The training provider would be duty bound to tell the employer if Katy didn't. Katy's employer would find out from another party too as they should have ensured she completed an advanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. It would therefore be better for her to be open about her record with her employer before DBS or her tutor informed them.

GDC principles

9.1 you must ensure that your conduct, both at work and in your personal life, justifies patients trust in you and the public's trust in the dental profession

9.3 You must inform the GDC if you are subject to criminal proceedings or a regulatory finding is made against you, anywhere in the world

Other guidance

With regards to first time registration or a restoration application, we advise applicants to read the following guidance - [Convictions and cautions guidance](#) (available on our website). This explains how we look into cautions and convictions. We look at these on a case-by-case basis.

Discussion points

- Are you worried about something in your past that could affect your GDC application? Have you asked for advice?
- Consider what behaviour could affect your GDC application

Disclaimer

These fictional case studies are for illustration purposes only and should not be relied on to make clinical decisions. Their aim is to put GDC guidance in context, exploring how some of the principles might work in practice.

The case studies cannot be relied on to be clinically accurate. Nor do the case studies intend to show the "correct" interpretation of GDC guidance, only one (or more) possible interpretation(s).