

Dentist jailed for sexual assault

UK dentist *TT* has been jailed for three years for sexually assaulting a patient while she was sedated during treatment.

The father of two was found guilty of kissing the woman's breast after she came to him to have a tooth removed, but at his trial at the end of February was cleared of carrying out two similar assaults.

On Friday last week, when *TT* appeared for sentencing, Guildford Crown Court heard that more than 100 letters of support for the dentist – who operated out of a surgery at ?????? had been sent since his conviction.

J. Perks, defending *TT*, described the letters as glowing testimonials that commented on his ability as a dentist as well as describing him as a caring man.

"The people who have written view him more as a friend than just a family dentist," said Mr Perks.

During the original trial, the jury heard evidence from a forensic expert who looked at samples from the victim's breast hours after she left *TT*'s surgery. The scientist explained that there was a billion to one chance the DNA found did not come from *TT*.

However, before being sentenced, *TT*, 47, was interviewed by probation officers and reiterated his plea of innocence. As a result of his continued protest, *TT* was categorised as being of medium risk of re-offending after his release from prison.

"He will not, in my opinion, re-offend," said Mr Perks.

"He will never accept that he committed this offence. He has lost his dental practice, his licence will be revoked – he will never work as a dentist again."

TT assaulted the patient after injecting her with a high dose of a sedative called Midazolam before removing a tooth.

Giving evidence, the patient said that, as well as kissing and groping her breasts, *TT*, who has more than 20 years' experience as a dentist, took her out of the chair and tried to pull her trousers down.

"I was physically very slow," she told the jury. "Everything was very slow. I couldn't physically move my arms."

She added that she had a hazy recollection of *TT* attempting to put his penis into her hand as she came round from the effects of the sedative.

In passing sentence, Judge John Crocker said *TT* had breached the trust the patient had placed in him.

"It's tragic to see a man of your ability, supported obviously by loyal friends, loyal patients, standing in the dock in the crown court having been convicted of what in my view was a serious indecent assault on one of your patients," said Judge Crocker.

"Patients place a great deal of trust in their dentist, especially when they have to be sedated when they are thereby vulnerable."

On release from prison *TT*, will be placed on the sex offenders' register for life.

He is also facing a General Medical Council misconduct hearing at which, if found guilty, he will face the prospect of being struck off.