



Welcome to Braces by Abbadent!

Everyone deserves a great smile, and we are delighted that you have chosen us to help you get the smile you deserve! Before we get started, we would like to go over a few things you'll want to know. Thanks for taking the time to go over this with us. Our policies are subject to change without notice. **Please initial beside each paragraph and sign on the second page.**

_____ **Time:** We work very hard to run on time all day, every day. If you're not seen on time, or you are in the waiting room beyond the time of your appointment please let one of our team members know right away. If we are not on time or early Dr. Rauen is not happy. This also goes for how long it takes to finish your orthodontic treatment. We strive to finish on time or early and usually do. To accomplish our goal of being on time we need your help. We will need you to show up on time, or even a little early, for your appointments. If something happens and you're going to be more than 10 minutes late don't stress! We understand that things happen, so just call us and let us know and we will find you another time to come see us. That being said, it is very important that you show up for your appointments on time, as much as possible. Missed appointments will delay your treatment and it may take longer than Dr. Rauen estimated to finish your awesome smile. None of us want that!

_____ **Brushing & Flossing:** We take oral hygiene very seriously. If your brushing needs some improvement we are happy to teach you some tricks to get the job done quickly and effectively. Dr. Rauen will look at your mouth and if he determines you're good to go, we will proceed with treatment. If Dr. Rauen sees some areas of concern, he will recommend you see our associate office, Abbadent Dental, or your regular dentist –then once you're all set, we will proceed with making your smile look great. It's also super important that you maintain great oral health during your treatment. If you have issues or aren't getting the best results on your own, we will coach you on how to do that. Most people need a little practice at first. We know you'll do your best, and we certainly do not want things to get out of control –if things get too messy, Dr. Rauen will recommend we remove the braces until hygiene improves. Don't forget that it is very important that you continue to get regular cleanings and checkups with your dentist every 6 months, especially while you have braces.

_____ **Looking Better:** Traditionally orthodontists took an all or none approach on treatment, meaning that if you had an underbite, large overbite, or an open bite, many orthodontists would tell patients they had to "have surgery or nothing." Dr. Rauen finds this approach unrealistic, and he believes straighter, better looking teeth are an excellent goal even when ideal is not achievable. Dr. Rauen will discuss your individualized treatment plan and goals before we start treatment, and will ensure we are on the same page when it comes to expectations. Dr. Rauen knows from vast experience that mismatched expectations and a lack of communication are the biggest sources of unhappiness in orthodontics!

_____ **Easy Cases & Short Treatment Times:** At Braces by Abbadent we offer treatment from an experienced practitioner who has taught thousands of dentists around the country about orthodontics. It's very exciting and we love to make braces affordable for everyone. To do this, we operate a little differently than other offices. For example, we don't take on the small percentage of very difficult orthodontic cases that take up an extraordinary amount of time. Instead, we are here to service the other 95% of the population and provide excellent treatment everyone can afford. This won't matter to you unless you happen to have one of these very difficult cases. If this occurs, Dr. Rauen will help you choose one of the other excellent orthodontists

in the Dubuque area. It takes about a little under two years on average to finish the majority of cases (the time ranges from 18 - 24 months), but everyone is special and Dr. Rauen will do what it takes to finish a case once it's started –he just needs you to do your part to help make this happen! Dr. Rauen is happy to treat most cases using braces or clear aligners, depending on your preference (he has vast experience with both). If you choose clear aligners and Dr. Rauen agrees that you can be treated with them, he will explain exactly what he expects your result to look like with excellent cooperation from you.

_____ **Provider Types:** Braces are provided by both general dentists and orthodontists. Dr. Rauen provides braces as a general dentist. Some cases may require the services of a specialist and we will make the appropriate referral if necessary.

_____ **Please Come to Your Appointments:** If you get braces or aligners and you are unable to show up for the appointments we agree on, this will definitely delay your treatment and limit your results. If this happens too often or goes on too long, Dr. Rauen will recommend that we remove the braces or stop the aligners for the benefit of everyone involved. We understand that stuff happens, and we just want to get this out on the table from the start. If you have an issue –be it a life change, a job change, a problem at work, financial issues, family crisis, insurance changes, a move, or anything else that you can think might disrupt your treatment, please let us know right away so we can figure out a way to help you. Life happens, we know that. We are here to help.

_____ **Non-traditional Hours:** Dr. Rauen started Braces by Abbadent because he loves making people smile! This is what allows us to have such awesome pricing, but it also has other differences between our practice and traditional practices. Dr. Rauen and his wife, Shelli, have four young children, and family time is important to them. Because of this, Braces by Abbadent hours will vary, but we will see patients mostly between the hours of 8:30AM to 3:30PM to allow Dr. Rauen to see his kids off to school and pick them up. These hours probably won't change much for the foreseeable future until his children get older. The great news about this is that the average case doesn't take more than 8-10 visits total, and we harness the latest in Teledentistry to allow minor issues to be handled without an appointment. Issues that cannot be handled over the phone are very rare, but we will have someone in the office to help you four days a week from 8AM to 5PM. We don't see any of this being an issue for most people, but we wanted to make sure we are open and clear about what we do here at Braces by Abbadent.

Patient Name

Patient Signature (parent/guardian signs if patient is a minor)

Date