

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF
THE COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHS OF ONTARIO**

B E T W E E N:

COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHS OF ONTARIO

- and -

ANNA BLASZCZYK

**AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS AND ADMISSION OF PROFESSIONAL
MISCONDUCT**

The parties hereby agree that the following facts may be accepted as true by the Discipline Committee of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario (the “College”):

The Registrant

1. Anna Blaszczyk (the “Registrant¹”) registered with the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy – Naturopathy on or about September 1, 1991. The Registrant became registered with the College of Naturopaths of Ontario (the “College”) on July 1, 2015. Attached as **Tab “A”** is a printout from the College’s Naturopathic Doctor Register.
2. The Registrant was suspended on or about April 2, 2020 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance.

¹ Although Ms. Blaszczyk was not registered with the College for certain allegations, for the purposes of this matter she will be referred to as the “Registrant.”

3. As of February 12, 2021, the Registrant has tendered her resignation and undertaking to never reapply by way of a signed Undertaking. A copy of the Undertaking is attached at **Tab “B”**.

Failing to co-operate with the Quality Assurance Committee

4. In or about July 2019, the Registrant was randomly selected to undergo a 2019-2020 Peer & Practice Assessment (“PPA”) in accordance with Section 7(2) of the College’s Quality Assurance (“QA”) Regulation, O Reg 33/13 (the “Regulation”) under the *Naturopathy Act, 2007*, SO, 2007 (the “Act”). Attached at **Tab “C”** is a copy of the Regulation.
5. It is agreed that section 4 of the Regulation stipulates that all registrants in the General Class must participate in the QA Program.
6. It is agreed that the Registrant failed to complete the PPA, failed to meet with and failed to co-operate with the QA assessor. In particular,

Random Selection to Undergo the PPA

- a. On or about July 8, 2019, the Registrant was notified by email that she was randomly selected to undergo a 2019-2020 PPA. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab “D”**.
- b. The same day, the Registrant responded to the College that she was “currently 70 yrs old and soon will finish my practice. So you can use your resources toward someone who is in the peak of the naturopathic practice. I work recently only 2-3 hours per week, just to keep my licence valid [sic]”. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab “E”**.
- c. On or about July 9, 2019, the Registrant submitted the completed Pre-Assessment and Conflict of Interest Forms. The College advised the Member that only the QA Committee can determine whether the Member is not required to complete the PPA and that she may submit an extension/deferral request. See Tab “D” for a copy of this correspondence.

The First Extension Request

- d. Between on or about July 10 and 17, 2019, the Registrant submitted a request for an extension and/or deferral of the PPA for the QA Committee's review and consideration (the "First Extension Request"). The Registrant initially submitted an incomplete Extension Request Form, but ultimately provided the missing information. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab "F"**.
- e. As part of her First Extension Request, the Registrant included a photo of a UHN patient card and an Accessible Parking Permit.
- f. On or about August 29, 2019, the Registrant was notified by email that the QA Committee asked that she collect and submit additional information to support a review of her First Extension Request. The Registrant did not respond to this correspondence, a copy of which is attached as **Tab "G"**.
- g. On or about September 13, 2019, College staff followed up with the Registrant by email regarding the submission of additional information. The Registrant then spoke to College staff and the Deputy Registrar on the phone and stated that she had nothing more to provide in support of her First Extension Request. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab "H"**.
- h. On or about September 24, 2019, the QA Committee reviewed the Registrant's First Extension Request with no additional information and denied it.
- i. On or about October 1, 2019, the Registrant was notified by email that her First Extension Request was denied and that she would be assigned a Peer Assessor. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab "I"**.
- j. On or about November 14, 2019, the Registrant sent an email to the College stating, "I would like to let you know that I'm terminating my

naturopathic practice by March 31, 2020.” A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab “J”**.

- k. On or about November 14, 2019, College staff emailed the Registrant to clarify her resignation request and to provide information regarding the process to resign. Despite being advised about the process for resignation, the Registrant did not resign. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab “K”**.

Non-Compliance with the Peer Assessor

- l. On or about December 1, 2019, the assigned Peer Assessor notified the College that the Registrant had not responded to the Peer Assessor’s attempts to make contact. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab “L”**.
- m. On or about December 1, 2019, College staff sent an email reminder to the Registrant about her obligation to comply with the PPA. On or about December 4, 2019, the Registrant responded, stating that she was suffering from health issues and stated, “Also I let The Naturopathic Board Know that I’m terminating my licence on march 31, 2020. It’s good idea to spend resources on some other ,younger naturopathic doctors I was 30 years in the naturopathic practice and 15 in the medical practice and I don’t think I need this assessment while I’m not practicing [sic].” A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab “M”**.
- n. On or about December 6, 2019, College staff contacted the Registrant by email to provide additional information about the process to resign. Despite being advised again about the process for resignation, the Registrant did not resign. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab “N”**.

The Second Extension Request

- o. On or about December 11, 2019, the Registrant submitted another request for an extension and/or deferral of the PPA for the QA Committee's review and consideration (the "Second Extension Request"). The Second Extension Request included the same materials identified at paragraph 5(e) above. The College subsequently encouraged the Registrant to submit additional supporting documentation for consideration as part of the Second Extension Request. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab "O"**.
- p. On or about January 7, 2020, the Registrant emailed the College stating that she sent a copy of an "assessment from car insurance". The College staff responded that no such documentation was received. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab "P"**.
- q. On or about January 13, 2020, the Registrant provided a letter from her physiotherapist confirming that she was undergoing physiotherapy treatment from a motor vehicle accident. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab "Q"**.
- r. On or about January 21, 2020, the QA Committee reviewed and denied the Second Extension Request as there is insufficient information to support that the Registrant was not practising. Specifically, the Registrant stated that she would cease practising in March 2020, but remained active in the General Class. A letter notifying the Registrant of the QA Committee's decision is attached as **Tab "R"**.

Further Non-Compliance

- s. On or about February 2, 2020, after a number of attempts by the Peer Assessor to schedule the PPA, the Registrant notified the College by email that she was chronically ill and was terminating her license. A copy of this correspondence is attached as **Tab "S"**.
- t. On or about February 26 and March 23, 2020, the Registrant was notified

that the College had not received any application for her resignation and that she had not completed the PPA as required. The Registrant was advised that if she failed to meet the requirements by March 23, 2020, the matter would be referred to the ICRC. The Registrant did not respond to this correspondence, which is attached at **Tab “T”**.

Acts of Professional Misconduct

7. It is agreed that the above noted conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(c) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (the “Code”) as set out in the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 17/14 made under the Act:
 - u. **Paragraph 36** - Contravening, by act or omission, a provision of the Act, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* or the regulations under either of those Acts, including but not limited to section 4 and section 7 of the Quality Assurance Regulation (see Tab “C” for a copy of the Regulation); and
 - v. **Paragraph 46** - Engaging in conduct or performing an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.
8. It is also agreed that the above-noted conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(b.0.1) of the Code, which relates to when a registrant has failed to co-operate with the QA Committee or any assessor appointed by that committee. Attached at **Tab “U”** is an excerpt of the Code.

Practising while suspended

9. On or about April 2, 2020, the Registrant’s certificate of registration was suspended for her failure to maintain professional liability insurance.

10. It is agreed that, despite her suspension, the Registrant continued to identify herself as a naturopathic doctor and used protected titles and designations on social media. Attached at **Tab “V”** are screenshots of the Registrant’s Facebook and LinkedIn profiles as they appeared during the period of her suspension.
11. It is agreed that the Registrant also identified herself as a “dermatologist” on social media before and during her suspension. See Tab “V” for a screenshot of the Registrant’s Facebook profile.
12. It is agreed that in or around June 2020, an undercover investigator of the College (using an alias) called the Registrant. It is agreed that the Registrant advised the investigator that:
 - a. She was a dermatologist;
 - b. She specialized in skin and sexually transmitted diseases; and
 - c. She could be called “Dr. Blaszczyk”.
13. It is agreed that on or about July 15, 2020, the investigator attended at the Registrant’s home for a scheduled appointment. It is agreed that during the appointment:
 - a. The Registrant asked the investigator to complete an intake form which stated the Registrant’s name and the title “Naturopathic Doctor”;
 - b. The Registrant had several forms at her home office which identified her as a naturopathic doctor and as being authorized to use protected titles and designations;
 - c. The Registrant communicated a naturopathic diagnosis when she advised the investigator the reasons why, in her professional opinion, he was experiencing insomnia and low energy;

- d. The Registrant used a machine called a “MORA” to check the electricity in the investigator’s organs;
- e. Following this assessment, the Registrant communicated a naturopathic diagnosis when she informed the investigator that he had food allergies, candida, weak adrenals, hypoglycemia, and a weak gall bladder;
- f. The Registrant advised a change in diet and stated that the reason the investigator was experiencing insomnia and low energy was because of these issues; and
- g. The Registrant charged and received from the investigator \$150.00 for the appointment. A receipt was not provided.

Attached at **Tab “W”** is a redacted copy of the investigator’s patient record, which includes the intake form and the Registrant’s notes.

14. It is agreed that after the Registrant became aware of the College investigation, she called the investigator and advised him that if the College called him, he should say the following:
- a. That he visited her as a “friend of a friend”;
 - b. That he did not pay her; and
 - c. That he knew the Registrant was not practising as a naturopathic doctor.

Acts of Professional Misconduct

15. It is agreed that the above-noted conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(c) of the Code as set out in one or more of the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 17/14 made under the *Naturopathy Act, 2007*:

- a. **Paragraph 27** - Permitting the advertising of the member or his or her practice in a manner that is false or misleading or that includes statements that are not factual and verifiable;
- b. **Paragraph 30** - Inappropriately using a term, title or designation in respect of the member's practice;
- c. **Paragraph 36** - Contravening, by act or omission, a provision of the Act, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* or the regulations under either of those Acts, including section 4 and section 8 of the Act and section 33 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (Attached at **Tab "X"** is an excerpt of the Acts);
- d. **Paragraph 39** - Practising the profession while the member's certificate of registration has been suspended;
- e. **Paragraph 40** - Directly or indirectly benefiting from the practice of the profession while the member's certificate of registration is suspended unless full disclosure is made by the member to the College of the nature of the benefit to be obtained and prior approval is obtained from the Executive Committee;
- f. **Paragraph 46** - Engaging in conduct or performing an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional; and
- g. **Paragraph 47** - Engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members as conduct unbecoming a member of the profession.

Acknowledgement

16. By this document, the Registrant states that:

- a. She understands fully the nature of the allegations made against her;

- b. She has no questions with respect to the allegations against her;
- c. She admits to the truth of the facts contained in this Agreed Statement of Facts and that the admitted facts constitute professional misconduct;
- d. She understands that by signing this document she is consenting to the evidence as set out in the Agreed Statement of Facts being presented to the Discipline Committee;
- e. She understands that by admitting the allegations, she is waiving her right to require the College to prove the allegations against her at a contested hearing;
- f. She understands that the decision of the Committee and a summary of its reasons, including reference to her name, will be published in the College's annual report and any other publication or website of the College;
- g. She understands that any agreement between her and the College with respect to the penalty proposed does not bind the Discipline Committee; and
- h. She understands and acknowledges that she is executing this document voluntarily, unequivocally, free of duress, and free of bribe and that she has been advised of her right to seek legal advice.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed this 12 day of FEB, 2021



Anna Blaszczyk
Registrant

Signed this 16th day of February, 2021



Andrew Parr, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
College of Naturopaths of Ontario

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OF ONTARIO

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MISCONDUCT**

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