

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

B E T W E E N :

COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHS OF ONTARIO

- and -

NATALIE ENGELBRECHT

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE INQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS COMMITTEE of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario (the “**College**”) has referred specified allegations against you to the Discipline Committee of the College. The allegations were referred in accordance with section 26 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code* which is Schedule II to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (the “**Code**”). The statement of specified allegations is attached to this Notice of Hearing. A discipline panel (the “**Panel**”) will hold a hearing under the authority of sections 38 to 56 of the Code, for the purposes of deciding whether the allegations are true. A **pre-hearing conference** will be held at a date and location to be set by the Presiding Officer. The panel will convene by secure video connection at **9:30 a.m. on a date to be set by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** ¹, or as soon thereafter as the Panel can be convened, for the purposes of conducting the **discipline hearing**.

IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND ON THE DATE FOR THE HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, THE PANEL MAY PROCEED IN YOUR ABSENCE AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY FURTHER NOTICE IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

If the Panel finds that you have engaged in professional misconduct, it may make one or more of the following orders:

1. Direct the CEO to revoke your certificate of registration.
2. Direct the CEO to suspend your certificate of registration for a specified period of time.
3. Direct the CEO to impose specified terms, conditions and limitations on your certificate of registration for a specified or indefinite period of time.
4. Require you to appear before the panel to be reprimanded.
5. Require you to pay a fine of not more than \$35,000 to the Minister of Finance.

¹ The Chief Executive Officer has been appointed by the Council to oversee operations and perform the duties of the Registrar as set out in and defined in section 1(1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code* (the Code).

6. If the act of professional misconduct was the sexual abuse of a patient, require you to reimburse the College for funding provided for that patient under the program required under section 85.7 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*.
7. If the panel makes an order under paragraph 6, require you to post security acceptable to the College to guarantee the payment of any amounts the Registrant² may be required to reimburse under the order under paragraph 6.

The Panel may, in an appropriate case, make an order requiring you to pay all or part of the College's costs and expenses pursuant to section 53.1 of the Code.

You are entitled to disclosure of the evidence against you in accordance with section 42(1) of the Code, and Rules 1.4, 6.4 and 6.5 of the *Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario*.

You, or your representative, may contact the lawyer for the College, Rebecca Durcan, in this matter:

Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc
Barristers & Solicitors
401 Bay Street
Suite 2308, P.O. Box 23
Toronto, ON M5H 2Y4

Telephone: (416) 644-4783
Facsimile: (416) 593-7867
Email: rdurcan@sml-law.com

Note that, Rules 6.4 and 6.5 of the *Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario* also apply to you. Rules 6.4 and 6.5 state as follows:

RULE 6.4 Documents and Witnesses

- (1) Each Party to a Proceeding shall deliver to every other Party (a) a list of, and (b) if not previously produced, copies of, all documents and things that the Party intends to produce or enter as evidence at the Discipline Hearing.
- (2) Each Party to a Proceeding shall deliver to every other Party a list containing the identity of any witnesses the Party intends to call and the subject of each witness's anticipated evidence.
- (3) The College must produce the information set out in (1) and (2) above as soon as is reasonably practicable after the Notice of Hearing is served but in any case, not less than fifteen (15) days before the commencement of the Hearing.

² The Council of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario has directed that the College refer to individuals registered with the College as "Registrants". "Registrant", as it is used in this Notice of Hearing has the same meaning as "member" as defined in section 1(1) of the Code.

- (4) Any other Party must produce the information set out in (1) and (2) above as soon as is reasonably practicable after disclosure by the College under this Rule but in any case, not less than ten (10) days before the commencement of the Hearing.
- (5) In the event that the College produces any information set out in (1) and (2) above less than 15 days before the Hearing, any Party who wishes to produce information set out in (1) and (2) above in response thereto may produce the information as soon as is reasonably practicable after disclosure by the College under this Rule but in any case, not less than five (5) days after disclosure by the College and prior to the commencement of the Hearing.
- (6) A Party who does not disclose a document or thing in compliance with this Rule may not refer to the document or thing or introduce it in evidence at the Discipline Hearing without leave of the Panel, which may be on any conditions that the Panel considers just.
- (7) A Party who does not include a witness in the witness list or provide the subject matter of the evidence a witness is expected to give in accordance with these rules may not call that person as a witness without leave of the Panel, which may be on any conditions as the Panel considers just.

RULE 6.5 Expert Opinion Disclosure

- (1) A Party who intends to call an expert to give opinion evidence at a Hearing shall:
 - (a) inform the other Parties of the intent to call the expert;
 - (b) identify the expert and the issue(s) on which the expert's opinion will be tendered;
 - (c) serve the other Parties with a copy of the expert's written report or, if there is no written report, a witness summary; and
 - (d) file and "Acknowledgement Form – Expert's Duty" signed by the expert, in the form appended to these rules.
- (2) The College shall deliver any expert report or witness summary upon which the College intends to rely at the Hearing to the Registrant at least sixty (60) days before the commencement of the Hearing.
- (3) The Registrant shall deliver any expert report upon which they intend to rely to the College at least thirty (30) days before the commencement of the hearing.
- (4) The College may deliver a reply expert report at least fifteen (15) days before the commencement of the Hearing.
- (5) Where an expert report is filed, it shall a minimum include the following information:
 - (a) qualifications of the expert;
 - (b) the instructions provided to the expert;
 - (c) the nature of the opinion being sought;

- (d) the factual assumptions upon which the opinion is based; and
 - (e) a list of documents reviewed by the expert.
- (6) A party who fails to comply with this Rule may not call the expert as a witness or file the expert's report without leave of the Panel, which may be on any conditions that the Panel considers just.

Date: July 24, 2026



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

TO: Natalie Engelbrecht
c/o Hugh Scher
1200 Bay Street, Suite 604
Toronto, ON M5R 2A5

STATEMENT OF SPECIFIED ALLEGATIONS

The Registrant

1. Natalie Engelbrecht (the “Registrant”) initially registered with the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy – Naturopathy in or about 1996. The Registrant became a registrant with the College of Naturopaths of Ontario (the “College”) in the General class of registration on or about July 1, 2015 as a result of the proclamation of the *Naturopathy Act, 2007* (the “Act”).
2. The Registrant is CEO and/or founder of Embrace Autism, based in Toronto, Ontario. Embrace Autism offers autism and ADHD assessments. At all material times, the website for Embrace Autism (the “Website”) was a professional website accessible to the public wherein the Registrant advertised her naturopathic practice.

The Undertaking

3. On August 26, 2025, the Registrant signed an Acknowledgement and Undertaking with the College (the “Undertaking”) in order to resolve an Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee investigation.
4. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Undertaking, the Registrant undertook to ensure all current and future advertising related to her naturopathic practice shall:
 - a. Prominently display the following disclaimer (the “Disclaimer”) on the main page of each of her professional websites: “Dr. Natalie Engelbrecht, ND is authorized to provide a naturopathic assessment and naturopathic diagnosis of autism spectrum and similar disorders which may not be accepted by all government organizations, educational institutions, or employers”.
 - b. Consistently use the term “naturopathic” as a qualifier before the words “assessment” (including “preliminary” or “diagnostic assessments”) and “diagnosis” in all instances where autism assessment and autism diagnosis are described without the involvement of a medical doctor (the “Qualifier”).
5. Contrary to the terms of the Undertaking:
 - a. The Disclaimer does not appear on the Website’s main page.
 - b. The Disclaimer appears on another page but is not prominently displayed as the Disclaimer is displayed penultimately in a long list and in a smaller font size relative to other information in the list.
 - c. The Qualifier is not consistently used in all instances where autism assessment and autism diagnosis are described without the involvement of a medical doctor.

Credentials

6. Contrary to the terms of the Undertaking:
 - a. The Disclaimer does not appear on the Website’s main page.

- b. The Disclaimer appears on another page but is not prominently displayed as the Disclaimer is displayed penultimately in a long list and in a smaller font size relative to other information in the list.
 - c. The Qualifier is not consistently used in all instances where autism assessment and autism diagnosis are described without the involvement of a medical doctor.
- 7. Contrary to the Act, the Registrant advertised and/or permitted the advertising of her practice on the Website that she could provide a “diagnosis” for autism identified through “techniques” instead of a “naturopathic diagnosis” identified through “naturopathic techniques.”
- 8. Pursuant to the College’s *Advertising Standard of Practice*, registrants:
 - a. must ensure that the information in advertisements is accurate, true, verifiable by the registrant, not misleading by either omitting relevant information or including non-relevant information, professional, comprehensible to its intended audience, and in accordance with the generally accepted standards of good taste; and
 - b. must ensure that advertisements do not include a comparative or superlative statement about service quality, products or people.
- 9. Contrary to these requirements, the Registrant:
 - a. advertised and/or permitted the advertising of information on the Website that was not true or verifiable, including but not limited to that she could provide a “diagnosis” for autism identified through “techniques” instead of a “naturopathic diagnosis” identified through “naturopathic techniques”; and/or
 - b. advertised superlative statements on the Website, including but not limited to that she was an “authority in adult autism” and “a Canadian leader in trauma, PTSD, and integrative medicine strictly informed by scientific research.”
- 10. Pursuant to s. 33(1.2) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (“RHPA”) and the College’s *Restricted Titles Standard of Practice*, a registrant shall not use the title “doctor” in written format without using the phrase “naturopathic doctor” immediately following his or her name. Note that s. 4(3) of Ontario Regulation 84/14 made under the Act permits the use of the abbreviation “ND” for the phrase “naturopathic doctor.”
- 11. Contrary to these requirements, the Registrant used the title “Dr.” but failed to consistently use the phrase “naturopathic doctor” or its abbreviation “ND” immediately following her name on the Website.

Allegations of Professional Misconduct

- 12. It is alleged that the above noted conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to subsection 51(1)(c) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, being Schedule 2 to the RHPA as set out in one or more of the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 17/14 made under the Act:
 - a. **Para 1:** Contravening, by act or omission, a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession including the *Advertising*

Standard of Practice and/or the Restricted Titles Standard of Practice;

- b. **Para 27:** Permitting the advertising of the member or his or her practice in a manner that is false or misleading or includes statements that are not factual and verifiable;
- c. **Para 30:** Inappropriately using a term, title or designation in respect of the member's practice;
- d. **Para 36:** Contravening, by act or omission, a provision of the Act, the RHPA or the regulations under either of those Acts including s. 33(1.2) of the RHPA;
- e. **Para 43:** Failing to carry out or abide by an undertaking given to the College or breaching an agreement with the College; and/or
- f. **Para 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.

APPENDIX

1. The documents to be tendered in evidence at the hearing have been sent with this Notice of Hearing.
2. The *Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario* have been sent with this Notice of Hearing.
3. Take notice that the documents that have been and may later be disclosed to you will be tendered as business documents pursuant to the *Evidence Act* of Ontario.
4. All documents that are disclosed to you in this matter are disclosed on the basis that they are to be used solely for the purpose of this proceeding and for no other purpose.

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

STEINECKE MACIURA LEBLANC

Barristers & Solicitors
401 Bay Street, Suite 2308
P.O. Box 23
Toronto, ON M5H 2Y4

Rebecca Durcan, LSO No.: 45930V

Elizabeth Urso, LSO No.: 74842E

Telephone: (416) 644-4783
(416) 913-9038

Facsimile: (416) 593-7867

Email: rdurcan@sml-law.com
eurso@sml-law.com

Lawyers for the College of
Naturopaths of Ontario