

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the License of:

Case No. 20-10-15

MATTHEW ZORN

Final Order – Default

LAPSED Licensee.

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining naturopathic physicians in the State of Oregon. Matthew Zorn (Lapsed Licensee) was a licensed as a naturopathic doctor in the State of Oregon on October 9, 2002. Zorn’s license expired on December 31, 2018. From January 1, 2019 to date, Zorn’s licensure status is lapsed. On or about December 14, 2020, the Board voted to issue a notice of proposed disciplinary action against Lapsed Licensee if and when he submits an application for a licensure from the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine, on the grounds described in the following paragraphs.

On or between January 4, 2021 and January 28, 2021, the Board sent Lapsed Licensee multiple copies of a Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action and Opportunity for Hearing via certified mail to all known mailing addresses. The Notice informed Licensee of the right to request a hearing within 21-days. The notice informed Lapsed Licensee that in the event the Board issues a final order by default, the Board designates its file on this matter for purposes of proving a prima facie case.

On February 17, 2021; Lapsed Licensee Mr. Zorn sent the Board an email acknowledging receipt of the Notice, and proposed discipline and stated he was not requesting a hearing or in any way objecting to the disciplinary action proposed by the Board. The Board did not receive any further correspondence from Lapsed Licensee; and the Board did not receive a request for a hearing to contest the proposed discipline as explained and provided in the Notice by February 18, the end of the 21-day period from the last mailed notice.

The Board issues this **Final Order by Default**.

NOW, THEREFORE, after consideration of the relevant records and files of the Board relating to this matter, the Board enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Final Order:

Findings of Fact

While holding an active license, Licensee was a professor for homeopathy at the National University of Naturopathic Medicine (NUNM) during the years 2015-2018. Licensee practiced naturopathic medicine at the NUNM clinic during the years of 2015-2018.

Patient A was a patient of the NUNM clinic from 2015 – 2019. Lapsed Licensee completed an intake exam for Patient A for visits to the NUNM clinic on 10/26/2015, 11/09/2015, and 1/25/2016, and a homeopathic intake in the fall of 2017. Lapsed Licensee's last day of employment at the NUNM clinic was September 5, 2018.

Lapsed Licensee and Patient A developed a friendship beginning in the fall of 2017, when she was a student of Lapsed Licensee. This included consensually messaging each other through Facebook Messenger. Lapsed Licensee and Patient A also exchanged text messages via smart phone between fall of 2017 and June 2018.

In June 2018, Lapsed Licensee sent Patient A a string of messages and texts exhibiting a progression and escalation of sexually suggestive overtures. Lapsed Licensee sent Patient A memes depicting women in sexually explicit positions. Lapsed Licensee also directly asked Patient A questions inquiring about Patient

Patient A sent Lapsed Licensee several texts in response explicitly stating he overstepped boundaries and acted unprofessionally. Patient A then ceased all communication with Lapsed Licensee.

Conclusions of Law

Lapsed Licensee's conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of ORS 685.110(14) – Engaging in any conduct or practice contrary to a recognized standard of ethics of the profession, OAR 850-050-0190(4)(c) ... Any behavior, gesture, or expression that is sexually seductive or sexually demeaning to a patient, or any action that shows a lack of respect for the patient's privacy.

Final Order

For the foregoing violations, the Board hereby orders two years of probation if and when Licensee submits an application for active licensure and if such application is granted. As a condition of probation, Lapsed Licensee must complete twelve (12) hours total of continuing

education six hours each year of probation, and the approved continuing education must be focused on maintaining appropriate doctor/patient boundaries. The twelve hours required are in addition to the annual continuing education requirements and are at Lapsed Licensee's own cost.

DATED this 12 day of April 2021.

BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
State of Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB Baptista', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary-Beth Baptista, Executive Director

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

You are entitled to judicial review of this order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within 60 days from the service of this order. Judicial review is in accordance with ORS 183.482(1) to the Oregon Court of Appeals.