



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Board of Naturopathic Medicine

800 NE Oregon Street Suite 407

Portland, OR 97232-2187

971-673-0193

971-673-0226 (fax)

January 28, 2021

Matthew Zorn

Zorn Homeopathic

1235 SE Division St Suite 205

Portland, OR 97202

CERTIFIED MAIL: 7020 3160 0000 6841 5308

Dear Mr. Zorn

Please find enclosed Notice of Proposed Discipline and Notice for Opportunity for Hearing. This is the second copy sent to this mailing address, the original copy was sent to the last known mailing address on file with the Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

Please contact the Board with any further comments or questions.

Mary-Beth Baptista

Executive Director



BEFORE THE  
BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE  
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the License of:

Case No. 20-10-15

MATTHEW ZORN

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY  
ACTION AND  
OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

LAPSED Licensee.

1.

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.

2.

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.

3.

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.

4.

For the foregoing violations, the Board proposes to impose 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.

5.

#### **NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING**

Licensee is entitled to a hearing as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act (ORS Chapter 183). A written request for hearing must be filed with the Board within 21 days from the date this notice was mailed and must be accompanied by a written answer to the charges contained in this Notice. A request for hearing must be mailed to Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine, 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 407, Portland, OR 97232. If a request for hearing is not received within 21 days, the right to hearing is waived.

6.

If you request a hearing, you will be notified of the time and place of the hearing. Before the hearing, you will receive information on the procedures, right of representation, and other rights of parties related to the conduct of the hearing. An administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at any hearing. ORS 183.635.

7.

An answer is required to this Notice, pursuant to OAR 850-001-0015, due to the complexity of the matters alleged above. The answer shall be made in writing to the Board and shall include an admission or denial of each factual matter alleged in this Notice, and a short plain statement of each relevant affirmative defense Licensee may have. Except for good cause,

factual matters alleged in this notice and not denied in the answer shall be presumed admitted; failure to raise a particular defense in the answer will be considered a waiver of such defense; and new matters alleged in the answer (affirmative defenses) shall be presumed to be denied by the agency and evidence shall not be taken on any issue not raised in the Notice and answer.

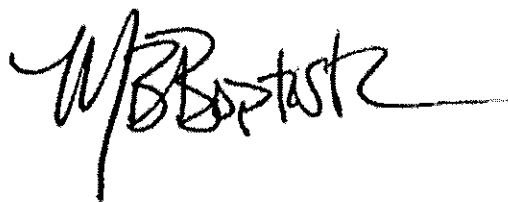
8.

If you fail to request a hearing within 21 days, withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Board or administrative law judge that you will not appear or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Board may issue a final order by default revoking your license. If the Board issues a default order, the contents of the Board's file automatically becomes part of the evidentiary record of this disciplinary action for the purpose of proving a prima facie case.

**NOTICE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS: Active duty service members have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal Service members Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll free phone number.**

DATED this 28 day of January 2021.

BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE  
State of Oregon



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Mary-Beth Baptista, Executive Director