

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the License of:

Ryan Wood, ND

Licensee.

Case Nos. 24-11-35 and 24-11-36

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY
ACTION AND
OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING**

1.

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating, and disciplining naturopathic physicians in the State of Oregon, pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) chapter 685 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) chapter 850. Dr. Ryan Wood N.D. (Licensee) is a licensed naturopathic physician in Oregon and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board.

2.

Pursuant to ORS 685.110 (14), (21) and (23), OAR 850-050-0010(1)(c)(C) and OAR 850-050-0190(3) (AANP Code of Ethics: (1) Honesty (4) Performance. (8)(c) Communication) 850-050-0190 (4)(c), the Board hereby proposes to take disciplinary action against Dr. Wood's (Licensee) license to practice naturopathic medicine, on the grounds described in the following paragraphs. For each violation listed below, the Board proposes a civil penalty of \$5,000, a 90-day suspension, and a five year term of probation.

3.

Dr. Wood first saw Patient 1 in November 2019, for left ankle and foot pain, and diastasis recti (a separation of the left and right abdominal muscles [rectus abdominis] that can cause a bulge in the center of the abdomen). The initial consultation was primarily conversational. Patient 1 was not on any medication at the time of the appointment, including medication that would affect her consciousness or memory for the duration of the initial consultation. Patient 1 is a social worker by profession and at the time / prior to seeing Dr. Wood, Patient 1 was a "parenting coordinator" appearing in court matters related to custody evaluations and custody cases. Dr. Wood became aware that Patient 1 was a parenting coordinator prior to their initial consultation. During their initial consult, Licensee proffered the parenting coordinator's name (PC Name) related to his custody case. Dr. Wood asked Patient 1 if they knew PC Name. Dr. Wood went on to make disparaging comments about PC Name and his ex-wife, blaming both for the contentious custody dispute, and asserting bias in the court system. Dr. Wood attempted to solicit comment on PC Name and the custody / court system from Patient 1. Patient 1 was uncomfortable talking about PC Name or offering an opinion on the court system. Patient 1 made several attempts to end the conversation but was generally unsuccessful. Patient 1 did not and could not have obtained PC name other than from Dr. Wood.

4.

After their initial consult Patient 1 was uncomfortable with Dr. Wood's demeanor and conversational style and did not return. Due to intervening events that aggravated their condition, Patient 1's health care provider re-referred them to Dr. Wood on / about May 2023. At their May 2023, appointment and their subsequent appointments, Licensee discussed with Patient 1, with ranging hostility; his ex-wife, custody dispute and PC Name. Patient 1 was not on medication that altered their consciousness or memory at the time of these conversations.

5.

On Patient 1's third visit, on / about July 25, 2023, Licensee suggested that Patient 1 get a visceral massage for her abdomen and suggested they see the same massage therapist seen by his wife. Licensee showed Patient 1 a marketing video from the suggested massage therapist. The video showed a female massage therapist and a male patient. While watching the video, Licensee made statements to Patient 1 about the physical attractiveness of a person in the video and made statements regarding sexual activity with a person in the video. Patient 1 was not on medication that altered her consciousness or memory at the time she was shown the video and when Dr. Wood made the comments. Licensee denied making the statement, stating "...such a comment would be inappropriate in any setting-especially a clinical one--and would directly contradict the professional standards I've upheld throughout my career."

6.

Dr. Wood spoke with patients very casually, often talking about his personal life; events he attended, recounting details of family vacations to each patient, and other family matters. Licensee regularly engaged patients with very informal and personal conversations, contrary to professional standards regarding doctor patient interactions, often indulging in personal details of his life and/or making inappropriate comments to and about patients that were not related to treatment and were not therapeutic in nature. Licensee repeatedly spoke about his ex-wife and his on-going custody dispute in the treatment room with patients present. Dr. Wood spoke with exasperation in his voice, and often emotionally charged while discussing his ex-wife and custody disputes to/with his patients, often using profanities and unkind words to describe his ex-wife while treating patients.

7.

Dr. Wood denied to the Board he spoke with Patient 1 or any of his patients about his custody dispute in the clinic, and / or making statements related to his custody dispute while patients were present, affirmatively stating, "I don't believe it would be appropriate in a clinical setting, so no, I did not." Dr. Wood denied to the Board he spoke with Patient 1 or any of his patients about his ex-spouse, custody case or divorce, affirmatively stating, "No, I don't think so, I try to not discuss my personal life, I try to keep that compartmentalized, I ah, no, that is my answer."

8.

Dr. Wood is divorced and has been going through a custody dispute since 2017. PC Name served as a parenting coordinator in his custody court case. Dr. Wood frequently spoke at length about this ex-wife and his on-going custody dispute in the treatment room with patients present. Licensee spoke with exasperation in his voice, and often emotionally charged while discussing his ex-wife and custody disputes to/with his patients, often using profanities and unkind words to describe his ex-wife. At Patient 1's initial consult, Dr. Wood made disparaging comments to Patient 1 about PC Name, his ex-wife, blaming both for the contentious custody dispute. Dr. Wood attempted to solicit comment from Patient 1, who works in the profession, regarding his on-going custody case, court system bias and solicited their opinion about PC Name. At Patient 1's May 2023, appointment and subsequent appointments, Dr. Wood discussed with Patient 1, with ranging hostility, his ex-wife, custody dispute and PC Name. Patient 1 was not on medication that altered their consciousness or memory at the time of these conversations. Patient 1 did not seek to find PC Name, nor did they have access to find PC Name. Patient 1 could only obtain and did obtain PC name from Licensee. Licensee's statements regarding his ex-wife and custody to dispute to Patient 1 is a violation of 850-050-0010(c)(C) and OAR 850-050-0190(3)- Failure to act in accordance with the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians Code of Ethics as adopted by the Board (AANP Code of Ethics: (4) Performance; (8)(c) Communication) and ORS 685.110 (14) Engaging in any conduct or practice contrary to a recognized standard of ethics of the profession or any conduct or practice that does or might constitute a danger to the health or safety of a patient or the public or any conduct, practice or condition that does or might adversely affect a physician's ability safely and skillfully to practice naturopathic medicine. Licensee's dishonesty in denying that he made the statements to Patient 1 during the investigation is in violation of 850-050-0010(1)(c)(C) and OAR 850- 050-0190(3) [AANP Code of Ethics: (1) Honesty] and ORS 685.110(21)

9.

While treating Patient 1, Licensee made statements about the physical attractiveness of a person in a marketing video he showed to Patient 1 and made statements regarding sexual activity with a person in the video. Patient was not on medication that altered her consciousness or memory at the time she was shown the video and / or when Dr. Wood made these comments. Licensee's conduct is a violation of 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.

10.

Patient 2 had their initial consultation with Licensee on / about September 2022. Patient 2 returned to see Dr. Wood on / about April 2023, paying upfront for a three-part stem cell series for bilateral hip pain / osteoarthritis in their hip. Patient 2 described her interactions with Dr. Wood as unprofessional, not trauma informed and generally too casual for a doctor. Licensee

made repeated comments about Patient 2's tattoos and physique during treatment that were not therapeutic in nature. At an appointment on / about Sept. 20, 2023, Dr. Wood told Patient 2 while performing an ultrasound on the front of their hip, "You are built like my ex-wife. She is awesome, she does triathlons. Not the mother of my kids, I fu**ing hate her." This comment was made while Patient 2 did not have pants on, and her hip and thigh were exposed. On / about January 23, 2024, prior to / while administering a cortisone injection to Patient 2, Licensee told them they would recover well from their upcoming surgery because "you are built like a truck." Patient 2 buttock and leg were exposed when he made this statement. Patient 2 was not on medication that altered her consciousness or memory at the time either statement was made. Licensee's conduct is a violation of 850-050-0010(1)(c)(C) and OAR 850- 050-0190(3)- Failure to act in accordance with the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians Code of Ethics as adopted by the Board (AANP Code of Ethics: (4) Performance; (8)(c) Communication) 850-050-0190(4)(c) and ORS 685.110 (14).

11.

Licensee denied to the Board making either statement to Patient 2, affirmatively stating "No I maintain a high-level professionalism in my clinical practice and that is not consistent with my care standards." Licensee denied to the Board that he would make those types of statements to a patient, affirmatively stating "Absolutely Not... I would consider even an offhanded, sarcastic remark that breaches a patient's sense of safety is a serious matter...Even unintended missteps can cause harm, but we work hard to build rapport while preserving professional boundaries, so you know, I've been at this for 20 years, and I do strive to have professionalism in all of my interactions." Licensee responded to the Board stating he did not know why Patient 2 would allege he made these statements, affirmatively stating, "No, I honestly cannot, I find that quite disturbing to be fair, I think that, in general, as a practitioner you try to maintain a high level of confidence and safety in our patient care, and provide an environment that is safe for the people we are caring for, communication standards are exceedingly important in order to maintain that level of trust and integrity. I don't believe that any remarks like that are appropriate in a treatment room, and with a patient. I can't conjecture as to why [they] would make such a statement." Licensee's dishonesty in denying that he made the statements to Patient 2 during the investigation is in violation of 850-050-0010(1)(c)(C) and OAR 850- 050-0190(3) [AANP Code of Ethics: (1) Honesty] and ORS 685.110(21)

12.

Licensee engaged patients with very informal and personal conversations, contrary to professional standards regarding doctor patient interactions, often indulging in personal details of his life and/or making inappropriate comments to and about patients that were not related to treatment and were not therapeutic in nature. Dr. Wood is divorced and has been going through a custody dispute since 2017. Licensee repeatedly spoke about his ex-wife and his on-going custody dispute in the treatment room with patients present. Dr. Wood spoke with exasperation

in his voice, and often emotionally charged while discussing his ex-wife and custody disputes to/with his patients, often using profanities and unkind words to describe his ex-wife while treating patients. At Patient 1's initial consult, Dr. Wood made disparaging comments to Patient 1 about PC Name, his ex-wife, blaming both for the contentious custody dispute. Dr. Wood attempted to solicit comment from Patient 1, who works in the profession, regarding his ongoing custody case, court system bias and solicited their opinion about PC Name. At Patient 1's May 2023, appointment and subsequent appointments, Dr. Wood discussed with Patient 1, with ranging hostility, his ex-wife, custody dispute and PC Name. Patient 1 did not seek to find PC Name, nor did they have access to find PC Name. Patient 1 could only obtain and did obtain PC name from Licensee. Patient 2 described her interactions with Dr. Wood as unprofessional, not trauma informed and generally too casual for a doctor. At an appointment on / about Sept. 20, 2023, Dr. Wood told Patient 2 while performing an ultrasound on the front of their hip, "You are built like my ex-wife. She is awesome, she does triathlons. Not the mother of my kids, I fu**ing hate her." Dr. Wood denied to the Board he spoke with Patient 1 or 2 or any of his patients about his custody dispute in the clinic. Dr. Wood affirmatively stating, "I don't believe it would be appropriate in a clinical setting, so no, I did not." Licensee denied to the Board he spoke with Patient 1 or Patient 2 or any of his patients about his ex-spouse, custody case or divorce, affirmatively stating, "No, I don't think so, I try to not discuss my personal life, I try to keep that compartmentalized, I ah, no, that is my answer." Dr. Wood affirmatively described his conduct and demeanor in his clinical practice as "maintain[ing] a high-level professionalism" stating, "... I would consider even an offhanded, sarcastic remark that breaches a patient's sense of safety is a serious matter...Even unintended missteps can cause harm, but we work hard to build rapport while preserving professional boundaries, so you know, I've been at this for 20 years, and I do strive to have professionalism in all of my interactions." Licensee denied making a comment that was sexual in nature to Patient 1 related to a promotional video stating, "...such a comment would be inappropriate in any setting-especially a clinical one--and would directly contradict the professional standards I've upheld throughout my career." Licensee also affirmatively told the Board "in general, as a practitioner you try to maintain a high level of confidence and safety in our patient care, and provide an environment that is safe for the people we are caring for, communication standards are exceedingly important in order to maintain that level of trust and integrity. I don't believe that any remarks like that are appropriate in a treatment room, and with a patient. I can't conjecture as to why [Patient 2] would make such a statement." Licensee's denials and affirmative statements to the Board regarding the manner and standards in which he treats and interacts with his patients, practices naturopathic medicine, including the substance and patterns of his communication with patients are in direct contradiction to his repeated and frequent conversations with and in the presence of patients and witnessed and experienced by Patient 1, Patient 2. Licensee's dishonesty about this conduct during the Board investigation is in violation of OAR 850-050-0010(1)(c)(C) and OAR 850-050-0190(3) [AANP Code of Ethics: (1) Honesty] and ORS 685.110(21)

13.

On/about March 15, 2022, the Board served Licensee with a Notice of Proposed Discipline and Opportunity for Hearing related to Board case 20-01-01, reciting facts that alleged violations of 850-050-0010(1)(c)(C) and OAR 850-050-0190(3) Failure to act in accordance with the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians Code of Ethics as adopted by the Board (AANP Code of Ethics (1) Honesty). The parties resolved this matter informally, by entering into Settlement Agreement and Consent Order on September 6, 2022. The Board found and Licensee stipulated he did not adequately respond to a Board investigation and was in violation of ORS 685.110(21). Licensee's conduct, denials and affirmative statements made to the Board during this Board investigation related to his conduct and treatment of Patient 1 and Patient 2 recited in this Notice, are the same and/or substantially similar to the stipulated conduct in Board case 20-01-01 and constitute a violation of and presence of aggravating factors per OAR 850-050-0010(2)(a)(A) and (C).

14.

For the violations described above, the Board proposes the following discipline:

- A. Licensure Suspension: 90 days
- B. Probation – 60 months (five-years) after the 90 days suspension with the following conditions:
 - i. Civil Penalty: \$5,000 per violation, with total civil penalty of \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars).
 - ii. Implement a written policy, approved by the Board, requiring a chaperone to be affirmatively offered and/or required as set forth below, within 30 days of imposition of discipline.
 - a. Required for all patients under sedation or any medication that alters the patient's consciousness.
 - b. Required for all patients who undergo a sensitive physical exam, e.g. all procedures, treatments or examinations that expose or involve the patient's genitals, rectum or breasts.
 - c. Offered for all other examinations or treatments and required if requested.
 - d. Clinic chaperone may not be a family member and/or related to Dr. Wood or a family member and/or related to any clinic employee.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

Licensee is entitled to a hearing as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act (ORS Chapter 183). If you want a hearing, you must file a written request for hearing with the Board within 21 days from the date this notice was mailed. You must submit request for hearing to either via email Naturopathic.Medicine@obnm.Oregon.gov or U.S. Mail to Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine, 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 407, Portland, OR 97232. The request for hearing must be received by the Board within 21 days from the date of mailing of this notice and must be accompanied by a written answer to the charges contained in this Notice. If a request for hearing is not received within 21 days, the right to hearing is waived.

15.

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.

16.

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.

17.

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>.

DATED this ____24th____ day of ____ October ____ 2025.

BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
State of Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M/B Baptista', is written over a faint, diagonal dashed line that spans the width of the page.

Mary-Beth Baptista, J.D. Executive Director