

IN THE MATTER OF

*** BEFORE THE**

CAROL HECKMAN

*** MARYLAND STATE**

Respondent

*** BOARD OF PHYSICIANS**

Unlicensed

*** Case Number: 2221-0020B**

*** * * * ***

CONSENT ORDER

On September 23, 2020, Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged **CAROL HECKMAN** (the “Respondent”) with violating the Maryland Naturopathic Medicine Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 14-5F-01 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.).

The pertinent provisions of the Act provide as follows:

Health Occ. § 14-5F-30. Unauthorized practice -- Representations to public.

(a) Unless an individual is licensed to practice naturopathic medicine, the individual may not:

- (1) Represent to the public by title, by description of services, methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the individual is licensed by the Board to practice naturopathic medicine;
- (2) Use the title "doctor of naturopathic medicine", "doctor of naturopathy", "naturopathic doctor", or "naturopath"; or
- (3) Use the initials "N.D.", "ND", "NMD", or "N.M.D." after the name of the individual.

On November 18, 2020, Panel B was convened as a Disciplinary Committee for Case Resolution (“DCCR”) in this matter. Based on negotiations occurring as a result of this DCCR, the Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order, consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and Consent.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel B finds the following:

BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant to these charges, the Respondent is not and has never been licensed to practice naturopathic medicine in the State of Maryland.

2. At all times relevant to these charges, the Respondent provided services at a “holistic wellness” facility (the “Facility”) in Maryland.

THE COMPLAINT

3. On or about January 17, 2020, the Board received a complaint alleging that the Respondent identified herself on a website as a naturopath but went to an unaccredited school and does not carry a license. The complainant provided a screenshot of the website dated “Tue Oct 8,” which contains a biography of the Respondent in which she identified herself as a “Traditionally Certified Naturopath.”

4. The Board initiated an investigation based on the above complaint.

BOARD INVESTIGATIVE ALLEGATIONS

5. By letter dated February 13, 2020, the Board informed the Respondent that it was in receipt of a complaint alleging that she was practicing naturopathy in the State of Maryland without a license. The Board directed the Respondent to provide a response to those allegations within ten business days.

6. By letter dated February 25, 2020, the Respondent submitted a written response, which was co-signed by counsel. The Respondent acknowledged identifying herself as a “Traditionally Certified Naturopath” on the Facility’s website. The

Respondent stated that to “allay any alleged misunderstanding or confusion in her web-bio,” she deleted use of the term “naturopath” on the website. The Respondent provided an updated screenshot of the website, dated February 22, 2020, that no longer includes the term “naturopath.”

7. The Board issued subpoenas to the Facility and acquired the Respondent’s personnel file and a series of records of individuals for whom the Respondent provided services at the Facility.

8. The Board’s investigation determined that the Respondent was not and has never been licensed in Maryland to practice naturopathic medicine but advertised herself on the Facility’s website using the term, “naturopath.” The Board’s investigation also determined that the Respondent executed a services contract with the Facility, effective January 1, 2017, in which she was identified as an “N.D.”, although she has never been licensed to practice naturopathic medicine in Maryland.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the Findings of Fact, Disciplinary Panel B of the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent used the title of Naturopath or Naturopathic Doctor, in violation of Health Occ. § 14-5F-30.

ORDER

It is thus by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of Disciplinary Panel B of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that within **SIX (6) MONTHS**, the Respondent, Carol Heckman, shall pay a civil fine of \$1500.00. The Payment shall be by money order or bank

certified check made payable to the Maryland Board of Physicians and mailed to P.O. Box 37217, Baltimore, Maryland 21297; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of the Consent Order is the date the Consent Order is signed by the Executive Director of the Board or her designee. The Executive Director signs the Consent Order on behalf of the disciplinary panel which has imposed the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is a public document. *See* Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6).

Signature on File

12/02/2020
Date

Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director

CONSENT

I, Carol Heckman, acknowledge that I have consulted with counsel before signing this document.

By this Consent, I agree to be bound by this Consent Order and all its terms and conditions and understand that the disciplinary panel will not entertain any request for amendments or modifications to any condition.

I assert that I am aware of my right to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-405 and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* concerning the pending charges. I waive this right and have elected to sign this Consent Order instead.

I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I waive those procedural and substantive protections. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the disciplinary panel to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order.

I voluntarily enter into and agree to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Order as a resolution of the charges. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order set out in the Consent Order. I waive all rights to appeal this Consent Order.

I sign this Consent Order, without reservation, and fully understand the language and meaning of its terms.

Signature on File

11-30-2020

Date

Carol Heckman

NOTARY

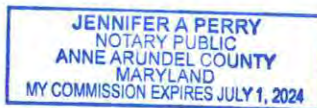
STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF AnneArundel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 30th day of November 2020, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County, personally appeared Carol Heckman, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.

Jennifer A Perry
Notary Public



My Commission expires: _____