

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF NATUROPATHY

In the Matter of

No. M2013-1275

EDMUND M. CORPUZ
Credential No. NATU.NT.00001270

FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND
FINAL ORDER OF DEFAULT
(Failure to Respond)

Respondent

This matter comes before the Board of Naturopathy (Board) for a final order of default. Based on the record, the Board issues the following:

1. FINDINGS OF FACT

1.1 On February 6, 2004, the state of Washington issued Respondent a credential to practice as a naturopathic physician. Respondent's credential is currently active.

1.2 Respondent was employed by Natural Health Technologies (NHT), a corporation located in the state of Washington, in order to treat patients via "Skype."

1.3 Respondent developed a business arrangement with the unlicensed owner of NHT, and delegated responsibility over medical records to the unlicensed owner of NHT.

1.4 In response to a Department of Health investigator's request for patient records, Respondent admitted that he treated patients over Skype without actual visual and physical contact with these patients. In addition, Respondent admitted that he did not maintain any medical records for the patients he treated, and could not provide any records to the investigator.

1.5 Respondent did not meet the standard of care for a naturopathic physician practicing in the State of Washington because his Skype examinations could not adequately evaluate a patient without an actual physical exam, and a physical exam was required for adequate treatment planning and diagnosis. Respondent's failure to meet the standard of care created an unreasonable risk of harm to his patients.

1.6 Respondent inappropriately prescribed human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) to patients for weight loss because HCG is not approved for the treatment of

weight loss nor is there any evidence that this is a safe or effective treatment. In addition, HCG has potentially serious side effects and contraindications that requires thorough patient evaluation prior to patient use.

1.7 On December 9, 2014, the Board served Respondent with a copy of the following documents at Respondent's last known address:

- A. Statement of Charges;
- B. Notice of Your Legal Rights; and
- C. Answer to Statement of Charges and Request for Settlement and Hearing (Answer).

1.8 The Answer was due in the Adjudicative Clerk Office by December 29, 2014. RCW 18.130.090.

1.9 The Adjudicative Clerk Office has not received the Answer. On January 5, 2015, the Adjudicative Clerk Office issued a Notice of Failure to Respond.

1.10 The Board has no reason to believe Respondent is now on active duty in the U.S. armed forces.

2. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2.1 The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and over the subject matter of this case, RCW 18.130.040.

2.2 Respondent did not file a request for hearing within the time allowed. RCW 18.130.090(1). Respondent is in default, and the Board may issue a final order based on the evidence presented. RCW 18.130.090(1) and RCW 34.05.440.

2.3 Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of RCW 18.130.180(1), (4), (10), and (16).

2.4 The above violations provide grounds for imposing sanctions under RCW 18.130.160.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH SANCTION RULES

3.1 The disciplining authority applies WAC 246-16-800, *et seq.*, to determine appropriate sanctions. WAC 246-16-800(2)(b)(iv) provides that "indefinite suspension may be imposed in default and waiver of hearing orders."

3.2 The sanction of indefinite suspension adequately addresses the alleged facts of this case and helps promote public health and safety.

4. ORDER

The BOARD ORDERS:

4.1 Respondent's credential to practice as a naturopath physician in the state of Washington is **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED**.

4.2 Respondent may petition for reinstatement pursuant to RCW 18.130.150. The disciplining authority may agree to an order of reinstatement. If the disciplining authority does not agree, a hearing may be held on the petition. An order of reinstatement based on agreement or following a hearing may impose any terms and conditions listed in RCW 18.130.160 deemed necessary by the disciplining authority to protect the public and/or rehabilitate Respondent's practice.

4.3 Respondent shall immediately return all credentials to the Board within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order.

4.4 Respondent shall assume all costs of complying with this Order.

4.5 The effective date of this Order is that date the Adjudicative Clerk Office places the signed order into the U.S. mail.

5. NOTICE TO PARTIES

This Order will be reported to the National Practitioner Databank (45 CFR Part 60) and elsewhere as required by law. It is a public document and will be placed on the Department of Health's website and otherwise disseminated as required by the Public Records Act (Chap. 42.56 RCW) and the Uniform Disciplinary Act. RCW 18.130.110.

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Any Party may file a petition for reconsideration. RCW 34.05.461(3); RCW 34.05.470. The petition must be filed within ten (10) days of service of this Order with:

Adjudicative Clerk Office
Adjudicative Service Unit
PO Box 47879
Olympia, WA 98504-7879

and a copy must be sent to:

State of Washington
Department of Health
Office of Legal Services
PO Box 47873
Olympia, WA 98504-7873

The petition must state the specific grounds upon which reconsideration is requested and the relief requested. The petition for reconsideration is considered denied twenty (20) days after the petition is filed if the Adjudicative Clerk Office has not responded to the petition or served written notice of the date by which action will be taken on the petition.

A petition for judicial review must be filed and served within thirty (30) days after service of this Order. RCW 34.05.542. The procedures are identified in chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V, Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement. A petition for reconsideration is not required before seeking judicial review. If a petition for reconsideration is filed, however, the thirty (30) day period will begin to run upon the resolution of that petition. RCW 34.05.470(3).

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The Order remains in effect even if a petition for reconsideration or petition for review is filed. "Filing" means actual receipt of the document by the Adjudicative Clerk Office. RCW 34.05.010(6). This Order was "served" upon you on the day it was deposited in the United States mail. RCW 34.05.010(19).

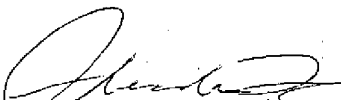
DATED: 06 FEBRUARY, 2015

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF NATUROPATHY



PANEL CHAIR

PRESENTED BY:



ALEXANDER H. LEE, WSBA #35824
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STAFF ATTORNEY

Feb. 6, 2015
DATE