

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**BETWEEN:**

**Dr. Kristy Gottselig**  
("Member")

- And –

**Cherie Baruss**  
("Complaints Director")

**WHEREAS:**

- A. The College of Naturopathic Doctors of Alberta ("College") is a body incorporated pursuant to the *Health Professions Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. H-7 ("*HPA*").
- B. On February 10, 2020, the College received a formal complaint pursuant to s.54(1) of the *HPA* from XXXXX regarding treatment of her common-law partner, XXXXXXXX.
- C. The Member was a regulated member within the meaning of the *HPA* at all material times, and more particularly, was registered with College at the time of the complaint.
- D. The College is charged with the responsibility of protecting the public from unethical, unskilled or unsafe practice. The complaint has been processed in accordance with Part 4 of the *HPA*.
- E. The Complaints Director notified the Member of the complaint and that the matter was being referred for investigation in accordance with s. 55(2)(d) of the *HPA* on April 20, 2020.
- F. An investigation into the complaint was conducted by the Complaints Director who prepared an investigation report. The investigation report noted concerns about whether the Member had treated a patient in her apartment after meeting him on a dating app. Further concerns were raised during the course of the investigation including concerns that the member did not conduct an initial patient assessment and relevant physical exam, that the member did not obtain written consent from the patient, that the member did not meet the requirements for emergency readiness, clean needle technique, nor did the member maintain a proper patient chart. These concerns were dealt with by the Complaints Director in the same process as the initial complaint process initiated on February 10, 2020 (collectively, the "Complaint").
- G. The Complaints Director determined there was sufficient evidence of potential "unprofessional conduct" so as to warrant a referral of the Complaint to a Hearing for adjudication pursuant to s. 66(3) of the *HPA* and a Notice of Hearing was issued (the "Notice of Hearing").

- H. There are mitigating factors to be considered in determining what action to take to resolve the Complaint. The Member and the Complaints Director have agreed to resolve the Complaint without proceeding to a Disciplinary Hearing under the authority of s. 55(2)(a.1) of the *HPA*.
- I. The Member has accepted that the Complaint and investigation report identified concerns regarding her practice and has accepted responsibility for addressing those concerns and acknowledges that she is accountable for safe and competent care.

**THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as a reprimand.
2. The Member will pay a fine of \$5,000.00 to the Complaints Director. The fine will be paid in full within three (3) months of signing this Memorandum of Understanding.
3. The Member will pay the College's costs of the investigation and complaint process in the amount of \$1,000.00. The costs will be paid in full within three (3) months of the Member being provided with the College's total costs.
4. The Member agrees to a suspension of her practice permit and authorization to practice for a period of one (1) month beginning January 29, 2021.
5. Provided that the Member successfully completes the requirements outlined above in paragraphs 2 and 3 within the specific time frames, the Complaint shall be considered resolved.
6. The College may publish the Notice of Hearing and this Memorandum of Understanding, as well as a summary of the information found in the Notice of Hearing and this Memorandum of Understanding, including the Member's name, in the College's Annual Report or other College publications.
7. Should the College receive an inquiry from any member of the public regarding the Member's complaint history, the College will be at liberty to provide a copy of this Memorandum of Understanding.
8. Should the College receive an inquiry from another regulatory body regarding the Member's complaint history, or should the College become aware that the Member is seeking registration with another regulatory body, the College will be at liberty to provide a copy of this Memorandum of Understanding.
9. The Member acknowledges that if a further complaint is received by the College after the date of this Memorandum of Understanding, and that complaint results in a hearing before

a Hearing Tribunal with a finding of unprofessional conduct, that the circumstances surrounding the Complaint and this Memorandum of Understanding may be considered by the Hearing Tribunal for the purposes of determining penalty, regardless of the passage of time.

10. Notwithstanding paragraph 5, if the Member fails to comply with the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Complaints Director may proceed to refer the Complaint to a Hearing Tribunal pursuant to Part 4 of the *HPA*, notwithstanding non-adherence to any time limit set out in the *HPA*.

I, Kristy Gottselig, acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to consult with legal counsel. I hereby acknowledge that I voluntarily enter into this Memorandum of Understanding, and I understand that the successful completion of the Memorandum of Understanding will constitute a full and complete resolution of the complaint.

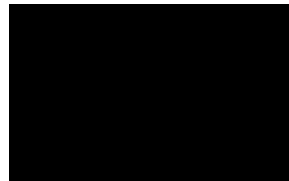
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Date

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**Dr. Kristy Gottselig**

**College of Naturopathic Doctors of  
Alberta**



**Cherie Baruss  
Complaints Director**

January 28, 2021  
Date