



Dawood TAGHIZADEH (01043)

Public Notification

Name: Dawood Taghizadeh

Profession: Former Registered Acupuncturist (R.Ac.)

Location of practice: North Vancouver, B.C.

Date of Action: September 3, 2024

Nature of Action: A panel of the Discipline Committee of the College of Complementary Health Professionals of B.C. (the "College") was convened to hear a formal citation issued to the respondent, Dawood Taghizadeh (the "Respondent"), pursuant to section 38 of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 183 (the "HPA").

At the time of the hearing, the Respondent was a former registrant under the HPA as he had allowed his registration to expire on March 31, 2023. The panel determined it has jurisdiction over a former registrant under section 26 of the HPA.

The citation contained allegations in relation to the Respondent's advertising and unauthorized use of a reserved title.

Following the discipline hearing, the Discipline Committee panel (the "Panel") issued a [decision and reasons dated March 22, 2024](#).

After considering submissions from the College on penalty and costs, the Panel issued an order and reasons on penalty and costs dated September 3, 2024.

A summary of the decision and order may be found below.

Verdict Decision

The Panel found that the Respondent:

- a) breached section 12.1 of the HPA, section 3 of the *Traditional Chinese Medicine Acupuncturist Regulation*, BC Reg. 283/2000 (the "Regulation") and section 92(2) of the College's Bylaws when on various dates between January and December 2022, including on January 18, 2022, he engaged in the unauthorized use of the title Doctor and Dr. on Twitter and Facebook, two publicly accessible websites;
- b) breached section 12.1 of the HPA, section 3 of the Regulation and section 92(2) of the College's Bylaws when in April 2022 he engaged in the unauthorized use of the title Doctor and Dr. in marketing materials, namely a business card and a brochure or pamphlet, that were obtained and on display respectively, at the Respondent's clinic on Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver (the "Clinic");



- c) breached section 92(2) of the College's Bylaws and engaged in misleading marketing practices by using the word "medical" on the Clinic's Facebook page on at least January 18, 2022; and
- d) breached section 92(2) of the College's Bylaws and engaged in misleading marketing practices by using the word "medical" in Clinic marketing materials, specifically a business card and a brochure or pamphlet, obtained and on display, respectively, at the Clinic on April 14, 2022.

The hearing proceeded to a decision on penalty and costs, as outlined below.

Penalty and Costs Decision

Following the issuance of the March 22, 2024 decision, the Panel, as required by law, requested submissions in writing from the College and the Respondent regarding the appropriate penalty and costs.

The Panel ordered under section 39(2)(b) of the HPA that the Respondent is not eligible to apply for reinstatement until he removes the titles of Doctor and Dr. and the word "medical" from his/the Clinic's Twitter and Facebook pages as applicable.

The Panel noted that the limits and conditions on the Respondent's eligibility for reinstatement of registration, as set out above, were in addition to all requirements for reinstatement set out in the CCHPBC Bylaws, and the Respondent's eligibility for reinstatement remains at the discretion of the Registration Committee in accordance with section 20 of the HPA or equivalent sections in the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* (or other successor legislation) at the time the application is made.

The Panel did not order any costs payable by the respondent.

Reasons:

The Panel held that the Respondent's unauthorized use of reserved titles and misleading information in his marketing materials was a significant breach of the HPA and College Bylaws. This conduct had the potential to confuse and mislead the public by undermining its ability to distinguish between qualified and unqualified practitioners, as well as undermining confidence in the professional practice of traditional Chinese medicine.

With respect to penalty, the College made submissions regarding the appropriate action to be taken under section 39 of the HPA. In its submissions, the College advised the Panel that after the Panel had rendered its decision on liability on March 22, 2024, the College had received information from the Respondent's family that the respondent had been diagnosed with and was being treated for a serious health condition.

In the circumstances (the Respondent's health, his lack of income due to the closure of his clinic, inability to work, and in consultation between the College and the Respondent's daughter), the College did not seek an order of costs against the Respondent.