



**COLLEGE OF COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (the “College”)**

In the matter of a Regulatory Complaint under the
Health Professions and Occupations Act, SBC [2022] c 43 (“HPOA”), regarding:

**Dr. Angie Romero-Espitia, Naturopathic Physican
INQ-2025-00144ND**

**CONSENT ORDER
(pursuant to section 158 of the HPOA)**

BY THE REGISTRAR:

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 16, 2025, pursuant to section 33 (1) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c 183 (the “HPA”), the College initiated an investigation following a complaint submitted by a patient, (the “Complainant”) alleging that Dr. Angie Romero-Espitia, ND (the “Respondent”), failed to provide satisfactory patient care by failing to adequately monitor the Complainant during cupping with red light therapy treatment, resulting in severe blistering. The Complainant further alleged that the Respondent failed to adequately respond to the injury once discovered. (the “Complaint”).
- B. On January 29, 2026, the Respondent was provided with notice of the investigation regarding the Complaint and was provided with an opportunity to respond to the investigation before the College’s Investigation Committee deliberated on the disposition of the Complaint.
- C. On July 16, 2026, a panel of the College’s Investigation Committee assessed the Complaint pursuant to section 134 (2) (b) of the HPOA.
- D. Pursuant to section 136 of the HPOA, the Panel determined it had reasonable grounds to believe the Respondent committed an act of misconduct by:
 - i. Failing to adequately record a discussion of the potential benefits and risks or side effects of cupping treatment, including but not limited to the risk of blisters, in the treatment record, in violation of the Informed Consent Practice Standard for Naturopathic Physicians (in place at the time)
 - ii. Failing to safely manage the intended and unintended outcomes of performing cupping on the Complainant, in violation of the Scope of Practice Standard for Naturopathic Physicians (in place at the time) by:



- a. Failing to perform cupping treatment safely by leaving the Complainant unattended during treatment without providing a means of signalling if assistance was required
 - b. Failing to adequately monitor the Complainant during cupping treatment by leaving the Complainant for around 30 minutes at a time during cupping treatment
 - c. Failing to refer the Complainant to urgent care or another suitable practitioner at the time of noticing severe blistering
 - d. Failing to adequately describe and record the injury in the treatment record.
- E. Pursuant to section 136 (2) (a) of the HPOA, the Panel directed the Registrar to dispose of the Complaint by making an order with the Respondent's consent pursuant to section 158 of the HPOA.
- F. The Respondent consents to the making of this Consent Order pursuant to section 158 of the HPOA and acknowledges that she has read and understood the terms of this Consent Order and was given the opportunity to seek independent legal advice before consenting to the terms of the order.
- G. The Respondent acknowledges that, in accordance with section 256 of the HPOA, the Registrar must publish the terms of the Disciplinary Order and the reasons for the Disciplinary Order.
- H. The Respondent acknowledges that a breach of the terms of this Consent Order constitutes misconduct pursuant to section 11 of the HPOA and any alleged breach may result in an investigation under the HPOA and lead to further regulatory consequences.

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

PURSUANT TO SECTION 158 (2) (b) AND 269 OF THE HPOA, THE REGISTRAR ORDERS THAT:

- 1. The Respondent acknowledges that they engaged in misconduct and consents to a reprimand for the following conduct:
 - a. Failing to adequately record a discussion of the potential benefits and risks or side effects of cupping treatment, including but not limited to the risk of blisters, in the treatment record, in violation of the Informed Consent Practice Standard for Naturopathic Physicians (in place at the time)



- b. Failing to safely manage the intended and unintended outcomes of performing cupping on the Complainant, in violation of the Scope of Practice Standard for Naturopathic Physicians (in place at the time) by:
 - i. Failing to perform cupping treatment safely by leaving the Complainant unattended during treatment without providing a means of signalling if assistance was required
 - ii. Failing to adequately monitor the Complainant during cupping treatment by leaving the Complainant for around 30 minutes at a time during cupping treatment
 - iii. Failing to refer the Complaint to urgent care or another suitable practitioner at the time of noticing severe blistering
 - iv. Failing to adequately describe and record the injury in the treatment record
- 2. The Respondent's undertaking not to repeat the following conduct, which constitutes a breach of the current College Integrated Person-Centered Care Professional Standard:
 - a. Failing to provide a clinical environment which is safe by closely monitoring patients during treatment(s), contrary to Principle 1.
 - b. Failing to provide a clinical environment which allowed for patients to signal for assistance during treatment, contrary to Principle 1.
 - c. Failing to address an injury which occurred during treatment or taking appropriate steps to address it, contrary to Principle 1.
- 3. The Respondent, within one month of signing this consent order, reviews and thoroughly familiarizes herself with the College's Bylaws.
- 4. The Respondent, within six months of consenting to the order, is required to complete *Live Online: Cupping: The Basics - Level 1* provided by Cupping Canada Inc. and report successful completion to the College.
- 5. The Respondent undertakes not to offer cupping or red-light therapy to patients until a College Practice Advisor (CPA) has met with the Respondent to discuss best practices for monitoring treatments, cupping, injuries and consent to treatment, with any further meeting to be required at the CPA's discretion until such time as the CPA is satisfied that the Respondent can conduct cupping and red-light therapy safely.



College of Complementary Health Professionals of British Columbia:

Marta Kumor Fane
Deputy Registrar

Dated at Vancouver this 15th day of October, 2026.