



GROUNDINGS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Section 1. Introduction

The National Ayurvedic Medical Association (“NAMA”) is a national organization representing the Ayurvedic profession in the United States. NAMA grants membership to individuals and organizations. NAMA, through its Certification Board, also grants certification credentials to Ayurvedic Professionals who meet certain certification qualifications. NAMA’s services, programs and activities are intended to support its mission: to preserve, protect, improve and promote the philosophy, knowledge, science and practice of Ayurveda for the benefit of humanity.

Ensuring responsible and ethical behavior on the part of NAMA members is at the heart of establishing Ayurvedic medicine as a recognized and respected profession, one that is of service and benefit to the public. In order to support responsible and ethical behavior, NAMA has adopted a Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Professional Members, and supporting policies and procedures. This document, “Grounds for Disciplinary Action” identifies grounds for disciplinary action against a professional member of NAMA (“Member”) or applicant for professional membership (“Applicant”). A companion document, “Procedures for Disciplinary Action”, explains the steps NAMA takes when a complaint is filed against a Member or Applicant.

NAMA reserves the right to take disciplinary action against a Member, or Applicant if there is credible and compelling evidence, information, or documentation that there are grounds for such disciplinary action as set forth in this document. NAMA understands the gravity of investigating a complaint and taking disciplinary action, and is committed to ensuring a fair and balanced process.

Section 2. Unethical Behavior

The following actions and circumstances may serve as a basis for NAMA disciplinary action:

1. Providing false, misleading, or deceptive information in connection with an application for NAMA membership, certification, or recertification.
2. Violating any NAMA policies or procedures pertaining to membership or certification.

3. Violating NAMA's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Professional Members.
4. Misrepresenting professional credentials (e.g., education, training, experience, level of competence, skills, and/or certification status).
5. Advertising false, misleading, or deceptive information.
6. Exceeding the scope of practice as defined by NAMA or applicable law, or employing practices not supported by the generally accepted experience of the profession.
7. Obtaining or attempting to obtain compensation or reimbursement by fraud or deceit.
8. Engaging in fraudulent or negligent billing or recordkeeping.
9. Performing services without obtaining informed consent.
10. Failing to maintain client-practitioner confidentiality.
11. Failing to maintain appropriate professional boundaries in relationships with clients or students or in any way exploiting client or student trust.
12. Engaging in sexual contact with a current client or student after the practitioner-client or teacher-student relationship is established.
13. Engaging in sexual contact with a former client or student where there is clear evidence of the possibility that egregious harm or exploitation of the trust established during the professional relationship will result. NAMA suggests extreme caution on the part of an Ayurvedic professional who chooses to enter into a personal relationship with a former client or student.
14. Knowingly violating accepted standards of the Ayurveda profession relating to safe, ethical, and/or competent practice.
15. Conviction of a felony that brings into question the moral and/or psychological fitness to engage in the profession of Ayurveda.

Section 3. Incompetence

The following actions and circumstances may serve as a basis for NAMA disciplinary action:

Engaging in conduct that evidences a lack of sufficient knowledge and ability to engage in the profession of Ayurveda safely, effectively and competently. This may include failure to apply the principles, knowledge, or skills of the Ayurveda profession at the level required for certification.

Section 4. Impairment

The following actions and circumstances may serve as a basis for NAMA disciplinary action:

Not being able to safely and effectively engage in the profession of Ayurveda due to substance abuse, or physical or psychological impairment.