



## College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

300-669 Howe Street  
Vancouver BC V6C 0B4  
[www.cpsbc.ca](http://www.cpsbc.ca)

Telephone: 604-733-7758  
Toll Free: 1-800-461-3008 (in BC)  
Fax: 604-733-3503

### BACKGROUNDER – February 1, 2021

## Ms. Maria Ezzati

### Vancouver, BC

**April 2017** – The College is advised that an individual is likely engaging in the practice of medicine by administering cosmetic Botox and/or dermal fillers at offices in Vancouver and Richmond, BC.

**July 2017** – The College is granted an Order, which permits investigators to search for and seize various items from the office of an individual named Ms. Maria Ezzati in Vancouver.

The Order also enjoins and restrains Ms. Ezzati, on an interim basis, from providing any service that may only be provided by a registrant of the College. The Order also prohibits Ms. Ezzati from using any name, title, description or abbreviation exclusively reserved for medical professionals (e.g. medical doctor, MD, doctor, Dr), although this aspect of the Order may be impacted by appeal proceedings that are currently underway in a separate matter.

**September 2017** – Through social media accounts, the College determines that Ms. Ezzati is likely continuing to engage in the unlawful practice of medicine by administering cosmetic Botox and/or dermal fillers.

**October 2017** – The College files an application and is granted an Order to search and seize items from an office in Richmond, BC. During the search, investigators find and seize framed certificates of achievement for training obtained by Ms. Ezzati in administering injectables, including cosmetic botulinum toxin (Botox) and dermal fillers.

**February 2018** – The College files an application to the Supreme Court of British Columbia to have Ms. Ezzati cited in the contempt of previous injunctions.

**March 2018 to August 2019** – Following a two-day Supreme Court hearing and an appeal to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia, Ms. Ezzati is found in contempt of the injunctions for having:

- a. advertised medical procedures and held herself out as being qualified to practise medicine on her website and Instagram until at least February 14, 2018;
- b. referred to herself as a “doctor” on her website, on printed promotional materials and on consent forms she signed as “Dr Maria Ezzati”; and
- c. discussed with and advised clients of the risks and benefits of the injection of botulinum toxin or dermal fillers for cosmetic purposes.

The Court does not find, on the basis of the circumstantial evidence the College tendered, that Ms. Ezzati has continued to administer Botox and dermal fillers while subject to the injunction.

**January 2020** – A hearing is held to determine the appropriate penalty for Ms. Ezzati’s contempt. The Court reserves judgment.

**February 2020** – Based on information obtained through social media accounts, undercover investigators attend a “Botox and filler party” at a private residence where video evidence is obtained of Ms. Ezzati injecting three different individuals and of cash payment being made to Ms. Ezzati for the service.

The College makes an application to the Supreme Court of BC and is granted an Order to search and seize at a property in Vancouver any drug, substance, device, instrument, supply and any other item that the inspectors reasonably believe are being or have been used in the practice of medicine, including any records that may be associated with medical diagnosis or treatment, or with scheduling clients for medical treatments related to the practice of medicine.

The College also prepares a fresh contempt application against Ms. Ezzati.

**February 20, 2020** – College investigators conduct a search and seizure operation at a property in Vancouver.

**March 2020** – Further to the January 2020 hearing, the Court issues its judgment for Ms. Ezzati’s original contempt case. Ms. Ezzati is ordered to pay a fine of \$5,000 and 50% of the College’s special costs.

**April 2020** – The College obtains affidavits from four individuals who attended the February “Botox and filler party” and received injections from Ms. Ezzati while believing she was a doctor.

**May 2020** – The College files an application in the Supreme Court of British Columbia to have Ms. Ezzati found in contempt of court again. The application is scheduled for June 4 to 5, 2020. Ms. Ezzati does not file a response.

**June 4, 2020** – The morning of the first day of the contempt hearing, Ms. Ezzati advises she is ill and has been directed to be tested for COVID-19. The contempt application is adjourned but the Court directs Ms. Ezzati to advise the College of the results of her test. Ms. Ezzati declines to provide her COVID-19 test results as directed by the Court and insists she is too ill for the contempt application to be rescheduled.

**July 2020** – The College obtains an affidavit from an individual who received injections from Ms. Ezzati on six occasions in April and May 2020 while believing Ms. Ezzati was a doctor. The individual says she met in person with Ms. Ezzati on June 8, 2020 and Ms. Ezzati did not appear to be ill. On the basis of this information, the College reschedules the contempt application for August 4 to 5, 2020.

**August 4, 2020** – The College presents its evidence of contempt to the Court. By this point Ms. Ezzati still has not filed a response.

**August 5, 2020** – Ms. Ezzati, having retained legal counsel on the evening of August 4, 2020, admits to every allegation of contempt made by the College. Through counsel, she applies for an adjournment to prepare submissions on the appropriate penalty. The Court grants the adjournment and, at Ms. Ezzati’s request, also orders the probation office to prepare a pre-sentence report.

**January 29, 2021** – Ms. Ezzati is sentenced to six months in prison, and ordered to pay the College’s special costs and a \$15,000 fine. A portion of the fine will be paid to the College to reimburse people who received an injection from Ms. Ezzati. She is also ordered to pay an outstanding fine of \$5,000 and 50% of the College’s special costs related to her original contempt case.

**Media inquiries:**

Communications and Public Affairs

[communications@cpsbc.ca](mailto:communications@cpsbc.ca)