



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

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MEDIA RELEASE – February 1, 2021

Maria Ezzati sentenced in contempt of court case for illegally injecting people with Botox and dermal fillers

VANCOUVER, BC: On January 29, 2021, Ms. Maria Ezzati was sentenced in the Supreme Court of BC to six months in prison for contempt of court. Ms. Ezzati had admitted in August 2020 of being in contempt of court by injecting people with botulinum toxin (Botox) and dermal fillers. Ms. Ezzati was also 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.

Ms. Ezzati must also pay an outstanding fine of \$5,000 and 50% of the College's special costs related to her original contempt case. Ms. Ezzati is not a registered or licensed health professional and was in violation of an injunction prohibiting her from providing any service that may only be provided by a registrant of the College.

The College previously hired undercover private investigators who attended a "Botox and filler party" at a private residence in Vancouver, where Ms. Ezzati was administering cosmetic medical injectables to attendees, and receiving cash in payment. The College discovered in February 2020 that Ms. Ezzati was in possession of Botox and medical supplies, leading to the contempt of court proceedings. The College later learned Ms. Ezzati continued to administer injections despite the court proceedings when it obtained an affidavit from an individual who received injections from her in April and May 2020.

"The College is confident that the public interest is being served with the sentencing of Ms. Ezzati," said Dr. Heidi Oetter, registrar and CEO of the College. "Any patient receiving an injection of a prescription drug from an unlicensed practitioner is at risk. There is no assurance that the practitioner is competent or qualified to provide treatment, or that the instruments and products being used were provided by a licensed manufacturer."

See also: [Backgrounder on Ms. Maria Ezzati](#)

Botox is listed in Schedule I of the *Drug Schedules Regulation, CB Reg 9/98* and therefore cannot be sold or administered without a prescription. Hyaluronic acid and lidocaine are the primary medical components of dermal fillers, and are listed in Schedule II of the *Drug Schedules Regulation*. They cannot lawfully be sold to a member of the public except by a licensed pharmacist, from the "professional service area" of a pharmacy (where there is no public access and no opportunity for patient self-selection).

Under the *Health Professions Act*, the College is responsible for licensing physicians and regulating the medical profession. The College takes action against those who pose as physicians and put the public at risk by practising medicine unlawfully.

The College recommends that any person who has been treated by an unlicensed practitioner consult with their family physician or nurse practitioner to review the treatment/procedure received and the materials used in performing the procedure. To verify credentials and to ensure a physician is registered with the College, members of the public are encouraged to visit the online registrant directory on the College website at www.cpsbc.ca.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons is the licensing and regulatory body for all physicians and surgeons in the province. Governed by provincial legislation, the College's role is to protect the public by establishing, monitoring and enforcing high standards of qualification and ethical practice across the province.

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