How Aromatherapists Practice Medicine without a License

As far as we know, aromatherapists have always practiced medicine. As far as we can tell, there has never been a time in history when aromatherapists did not practice medicine. There's no logical reason why aromatherapists should not be able to use plant essential oils to do what aromatherapists have always done. Logically, there's no reason why aromatherapists should not be able to practice medicine as aromatherapists have always done.

As you will learn, logic has nothing to do with the practice of medicine in most of the developed and developing world today. The practice of medicine is controlled by the pharmaceutical companies who dictate what will be taught in medical schools, what drugs prescribing physicians must legally prescribe for each particular diagnosis, and what natural therapies products and techniques must be eliminated. To learn more about this see "Three Trends in Aromatherapy Today" also written by Dr. John Gilbert.

Medical Schools

Medical schools that refuse to teach the subjects and in the manner they are told to teach are cut off from pharmaceutical and government grants, financial aid to maintain the school and pay salaries. Any school foolish enough to do this would be out of business almost immediately.

Prescribing Physicians

Under medical licensing laws, prescribing physicians who do not follow the standard of care requiring a prescription drug face charges of unlawfully practicing medicine. They will probably receive one warning for their first offense. For their second they will most likely be suspended and for their third violation their license will be revoked. Licensing boards have some leeway, but those who do not prescribe drugs according to law will have their license to practice medicine revoked.

Natural Therapies

If any natural therapy product or technique threatens pharmaceutical company profits, these offenders will be eliminated at all costs. Just remember that the gross income for all natural therapies products and services is less than one-tenth of the profits enjoyed by the drug companies. Drug company profits are more than ten times the total amount of money spent annually on all natural therapies products and services.

You may not know this but money has been used to buy government bureaucrats and politicians. It may even be buying them now. In any event, the FDA and Health Canada have a good track record for eliminating natural therapies competitions to the pharmaceutical industry.

What Aromatherapists do that’s Practicing Medicine without a License

Aromatherapists routinely help people identify the root of their physical, mental, emotional or psychological conditions, diseases, disorders and issues. This is called
diagnosis. Only licensed healthcare professionals may legally diagnose anything. Anybody else diagnosing these things is practicing medicine without a license.

Aromatherapists routinely choose one or more essential oils to help their clients resolve their physical, mental, emotional and psychological issues, concerns, conditions, diseases and disorders. This is called prescribing. Only licensed healthcare professionals may prescribe anything for these things. Anybody else doing that is practicing medicine without a license.

Aromatherapists routinely treat their clients because this is the way they were taught to do things, because this is the way aromatherapists have been taught for centuries. Under the licensing laws in the vast majority of the world's countries, unless you have a license to do what you're doing, you are practicing medicine without a license.

This has always been true during our lifetime. Everybody has always accepted that we could do what we were doing in spite of the law. Nobody has ever done anything about it. Until now...

Aromatherapy is threatening drug company profits. Aromatherapy is doing things drugs can legally do. True, prescription drugs are toxic; essential oils are not. True, drugs are highly profitable; aromatherapy is not. True, drugs are synthetic products that attack the body; aromatherapy does not. True, most drugs have serious side effects; most essential oils do not. The only thing here that matters is profits. As far as the drug industry is concerned everything else is immaterial.

Therefore, to protect their profits, the pharmaceutical industry is using the laws they wrote and paid good money to enact to require licensing boards to enforce these laws. They consider this a necessary business expense.

**How Aromatherapists Can Legally Practice Aromatherapy**

First of all we have to change our thinking. We change from thinking about medical problems, concerns, issues, diseases, disorders and conditions to thinking about:

Helping clients reduce their stress
Helping clients manage their pain
Helping clients detoxify themselves
Helping clients enhance the quality of their lives
Helping clients improve their peak performance
Helping clients learn personal first aid
Helping clients take responsibility for their own health

Secondly, we have to change the way we say things. For example, anti-bacterial is a medical term meaning that substance creates a hostile environment for bacteria. If we say an essential oil is anti-bacterial we make a medical determination and that's practicing medicine. But, if we say that oil creates a hostile environment for bacteria, we describe an attribute of the essential oil and we are not practicing medicine. If we say this, we are legally practicing aromatherapy.
Antiseptic is a medical term meaning to inhibit microbial activity. Saying that an essential oil inhibits microbial activity is not a medical determination. Anti-fungal, anti-microbial, anti-parasitic, anti-viral and similar terms are all medical terms. Saying that an essential oil creates a hostile environment for bacteria, microbes, parasites or viruses is a description of what that essential oil does.

An antispasmodic relaxes muscles, so aromatherapists need to learn to speak about relaxing muscles instead of the medical term antispasmodic. As you go through a list of properties for any specific oil all you need to do is identify the medical terms and figure out what you can say instead. If you don't know look the word up in a dictionary and use that definition instead.

Thirdly, we need to change the way we speak with our clients. Most of us were taught to counsel, advise, suggest, recommend, caution, warn and hint that our clients do something. If that something is a product we are guilty of counseling without a license. But if we educate our clients about the properties of specific oils and they make the decision to try something, we are coaching our clients and that's perfectly legal.

Disclaimer:

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Conclusion

The paradigm shift from practicing medicine, massage therapy or counseling without a license to legally practicing aromatherapy is actually easier than one might think. Several organizations teach professional practices and ethics as well as coaching skills according to this new paradigm. Forming your own study group and using materials available over the Internet also works.

But we would be remiss if we did not ask you to consider becoming certified in aromatherapy, licensed as a spiritual healer and joining a professional organization for professional insurance and other benefits.