



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2016

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MAN ARRESTED FOR PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE *Bakersfield resident also charged with illegal possession of controlled substances*

SACRAMENTO – A Bakersfield man was arrested Tuesday for the unlicensed practice of medicine.

The Investigation and Enforcement Unit – Central Valley Field Office of the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Division of Investigation arrested Alberto Gonzalez on Tuesday, October 11, 2016, following the investigation of a complaint that was made by a local news reporter.

In 2012, Gonzalez was investigated by the Bakersfield Police Department when they learned he had been practicing medicine inside of his home. In 2013, he was convicted of practicing medicine without a license and sentenced to two years in jail. In 2015, a local news reporter learned that Gonzalez had opened a new medical clinic in Lamont and alerted the department.

An undercover investigation and search warrants served earlier this year revealed that Gonzalez was running a business in Lamont, practicing as a naturopathic doctor and administering injections to patients. Gonzalez also admitted to treating patients in the Monterey and Seaside area.

The Kern County Sheriff's Department assisted with this investigation.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office charged Gonzales with one felony count of practicing medicine without a certificate, one misdemeanor count of illegal possession of controlled substances, one misdemeanor count of claiming to be a Naturopathic Doctor, and one misdemeanor count of unlawfully using the title "N.D." The bail amount was set at \$50,000.

"We take the unlicensed practice of naturopathic medicine very seriously and are glad this individual can no longer harm consumers," said Rebecca Mitchell, Executive Officer of the Naturopathic Medicine Committee.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office is asking that anyone who believes they were a victim of Gonzalez' illegal practice of medicine contact the Division of Investigation, Investigator Lee Cotter at (559) 244-5656 or, for Spanish speakers, Investigator Roxann Harris at (559) 244-4933.

The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers can file complaints against licensees by contacting the Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.dca.ca.gov.

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