



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
1747 N. Market Blvd. Ste 225 Sacramento, CA 95834
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CITATION: ASSESSMENT OF FINE AND ORDER OF ABATEMENT

To: Jesus Gonzalez, Owner
Fibroblast USA
23540 Lyons Ave.
Santa Clarita, CA 91321

INSTITUTION CODE: Unapproved
CITATION NUMBER: 2021137
CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: November 24, 2020
DUE DATE: December 24, 2020
FINE AMOUNT: \$5,000.00
ORDER OF ABATEMENT INCLUDED: Yes

Christina Villanueva issues this Citation: Assessment of Fine and Order of Abatement (Citation) in her official capacity as Discipline Manager for the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

CITATION

A Citation is hereby issued to Jesus Gonzalez, Owner, Owner of Fibroblast USA (Institution) located at 23540 Lyons Ave., Santa Clarita, CA 91321 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.9 and 149; California Education Code (CEC) section 94944; and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5, CCR) section 75020 for the violation(s) described below.

BACKGROUND

On April 24, 2020, 2020, the Bureau received a tip alleging that the Institution was operating without Bureau approval. Through the course of the investigation and evidence obtained, it was determined the Institution is operating without Bureau approval.

VIOLATION(S)

#	Below you will find the California Education Code (CEC) and/or Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5, CCR code) section(s) of law you are charged with violating.
1.	<p>Violation: CEC Section 94886. Approval to Operate Required <i>“Except as exempted in Article 4 (commencing with Section 94874) or in compliance with the transition provisions in Article 2 (commencing with Section 94802), a person shall not open, conduct, or do business as a private postsecondary educational institution in this state without obtaining an approval to operate under this chapter.”</i></p> <p>CEC Section 94817.5. Approved to Operate or Approved</p>

“Approved to operate” or “approved” means that an institution has received authorization pursuant to this chapter to offer to the public and to provide postsecondary educational programs.”

CEC Section 94868. To Offer to the Public

“To offer to the public” means to advertise, publicize, solicit, or recruit.”

CEC Section 94869. To Operate

“To operate” means to establish, keep, or maintain any facility or location in this state where, or from which, or through which, postsecondary educational programs are provided.”

On April 24, 2020, the Bureau received a tip alleging that the Institution was operating without Bureau approval.

On May 4, 2020, Bureau staff found the Institutions’ website, www.spasourceint.com, was offering the following courses:

- Two-day Fibroblast Training
- One-day Advanced Fibroblast Training (prerequisite two-day Fibroblast Training)
- Fibroblast Treatment Training

On May 18, 2020, Institution staff informed the Bureau via telephone that courses do not exceed \$2,500.00, but with the additional cost of machines and kits, the total price exceeds \$2,500.00. Additionally, Institution staff stated that the Institution only has two courses. The Institution does not have a one-day training course nor a prerequisite for the two-day training course.

May 28, 2020, Institution staff responded to the email sent by Bureau staff on May 4, 2020, stating that Spa Source Int. is where the Institution is located. Spa Source Int. is a professional facility store that provides products, tools, machines, furniture, graphic design, business consulting, and education to both certified and/or licensed professionals. Institution staff stated that students do not sign any forms. If equipment is purchased, students are given an invoice and receipt for their record of deposits. Furthermore, Institution staff stated that training costs never exceed \$2,000.00, but kit prices range from \$2,400.00 to \$3,000.00 depending on the equipment and bundles. The combined price of the training and the kits range from \$2,900.00 to \$3,900.00.

On May 29, 2020, Bureau staff informed the Institution that the total cost of the program which includes both the tuition and kit is over the \$2,500.00 exemption threshold.

On June 9, 2020, Institution staff sent the Bureau a flyer with new pricing:

- Fibroblast Training \$1, 500.00
- Fibroblast Training with Pen and Basic Kit \$2,450.00

Through the course of the investigation and evidence obtained, Bureau staff determined that the Institution was operating without Bureau approval while charging students over \$2,500.00 in tuition.

Order of Abatement:

The Bureau orders that the Institution cease to operate as a private postsecondary educational institution, unless the Institution qualifies for an exemption under CEC section 94874. The

Institution must discontinue recruiting or enrolling students and cease all instructional services and advertising in any form or type of media, including www.spasourceint.com, and any other websites not identified here that are associated with the Institution, until such time as an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau. The Institution must disconnect all telephone service numbers including that are associated with the Institution until such time as an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau. To comply with the Order of Abatement the Institution must submit a school closure plan to the Bureau pursuant to California Education Code section 94926. The Institution must provide a roster of each student currently enrolled at the Institution. The roster must include the names of the students, their contact information (including phone number, email address, and physical address), the programs in which they are enrolled, the amount paid for the programs.

Assessment of Fine

The fine for this violation is \$5,000.00

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FINE DUE: \$5,000.00

ASSESSMENT OF A FINE

In accordance with CEC section 94944; and 5, CCR section 75020(b), the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of a fine in the amount of **\$5,000.00** for the violations described above. **Payment must be made, to the Bureau, within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation.**

COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER OF ABATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 5, CCR section 75020 (b) the Bureau hereby issues the order(s) of abatement described above. In accordance with Business and Professions Code Section 149, the Bureau may disconnect any telephone service numbers used by an unapproved Institution. **Evidence of compliance with the order(s) of abatement must be submitted, to the Bureau, within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation**

APPEAL OF CITATION

You have the right to contest this Citation through an informal conference with the Bureau; and/or through an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 5 (Commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

If you wish to contest this Citation, you must submit the 'Notice of Appeal of Citation – Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing' form (enclosed) within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation. *If you do not request an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing within 30 days from the service of the Citation, you will not be able to request one at a later time.*

Unless a written request for an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing is signed by you and delivered to the Bureau by **December 24, 2020**, you will be deemed to have waived or forfeited your right to appeal this matter.

You have the right to contest this Citation through an informal conference with the Bureau; and/or through an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 5 (Commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

If you wish to contest this Citation, you must submit the 'Notice of Appeal of Citation – Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing' form (enclosed) within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation. *If you do not request an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing within 30 days from the service of the Citation, you will not be able to request one at a later time.*

Unless a written request for an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing is signed by you and delivered to the Bureau by **December 24, 2020**, you will be deemed to have waived or forfeited your right to appeal this matter.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CITATION

If you do not request an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing, this Citation shall become effective on **November 24, 2020**. Payment of the administrative fine and evidence of compliance with the order(s) of abatement shall be due by **December 24, 2020**. Your payment of the administrative fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation(s) charged.

If a hearing is requested, you will not be required to comply with this Citation until 30 days after a final order is entered against you.

Payment of the administrative fine and/or written request for appeal must be mailed to:

Nicole Mitchell, Discipline Citation Program
Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834

Failure for an applicant or institution to abate the violation(s) listed above or to pay the administrative fine within the time allowed may result in denial of an application for an approval or renewal to operate; disciplinary action, and/or collection action. The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce this Citation and recover the civil penalties prescribed therein or found to be due after a hearing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this Citation, or desire further information, please contact Nicole Mitchell, Citation Analyst, at (916) 574-8995 or Nicole.Mitchell@dca.ca.gov.

“Original Signature on File”

“11/24/2020”

Christina Villanueva
Discipline Manager

Date

Enclosures

- Applicable Laws Violated
- Statement of Rights: Appeal Process Information Sheet
- Notice of Appeal of Citation: Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing
- Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail