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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**NCALB Responds to Arrest of Asheville Acupuncturist Shi Ying Kuai.**

*Raleigh, North Carolina.* The North Carolina Acupuncture Licensing Board (NCALB) is aware of and continues to monitor the sexual assault charges and accusations recently brought against Shi Ying Kuai (Kuai), a Licensed Acupuncturist based in Asheville, North Carolina. The NCALB is the public agency formed by the General Assembly in 1993 charged with the obligation to regulate the Practice of Acupuncture “to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the people of North Carolina.” N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-450.

Kuai was first licensed as an Acupuncturist in North Carolina on 13 January 1995 and his license was renewed most recently on 20 May 2022. He currently holds NC Acupuncture License No. 34.

The NCALB and its counsel are in communication with law enforcement, the Buncombe County District Attorney’s Office, and defense counsel appointed by the Court. The NCALB met last Friday morning and authorized both formal and informal proceedings concerning Kuai considering the charges then pending. The NCALB is aware that further accusations have been made against Kuai over the weekend and that new charges are pending or anticipated.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-456 lists prohibited activities for Acupuncturists – including making sexual advances toward or sexual activity with a patient – which can lead to discipline if violated. Upon proper findings, the NCALB can suspend or revoke an Acupuncturist’s license, or impose other forms of discipline.

In addition to formal disciplinary proceedings contemplated by the NCALB’s statutory framework, the NCALB is seeking Kuai’s voluntary surrender of his Acupuncture license

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to the Court along with his agreement to stop practicing Acupuncture until the criminal matters are resolved and, depending on outcome, beyond.

All members of the NCALB take their role to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the people of North Carolina quite seriously. By like sign, the NCALB acknowledges that everyone charged with a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Patients with concerns about Acupuncturists are encouraged to contact the NCALB and, where appropriate, law enforcement.

More information about the Practice of Acupuncture in North Carolina, including the process to make complaints against Acupuncturists, can be found at [ncalb.com](http://ncalb.com).

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