

PRESS RELEASE

German Federal Administrative Court Strengthens Chiropractic – A Milestone After Nearly Nine Years of Legal Proceedings

The German Chiropractors' Association (Bund Deutscher Chiropraktiker e.V., BDC) welcomes today's decision by the German Federal Administrative Court concerning the sector-specific Heilpraktiker licence for chiropractic. After nearly nine years of legal proceedings, a landmark decision has now been reached that extends far beyond the individual case and has significant implications for chiropractic in Germany.

The proceedings began in 2017. After successfully completing his Master of Science degree in Chiropractic, Alexander Maaßen applied to the competent public health authority in Bavaria for a sector-specific Heilpraktiker licence limited to the field of chiropractic. Despite his academic qualifications, the application was rejected.

Alexander Maaßen subsequently decided to pursue legal action. This rejection led to proceedings that continued through several instances for almost nine years and have now concluded before the German Federal Administrative Court. Throughout the entire process, Alexander Maaßen was accompanied and supported by the German Chiropractors' Association.

"This is a historic day for chiropractic in Germany. This ruling creates legal certainty and will have a lasting impact on the development of our profession. At the same time, it is the result of nearly nine years of perseverance, conviction and consistent legal work," explains Frank Soens, President of the German Chiropractors' Association.

The BDC would particularly like to thank Alexander Maaßen for his exceptional personal commitment. Without his willingness to pursue this lengthy legal process, such a clarification by Germany's highest administrative court would not have been possible. His dedication has made a significant contribution to the further development of the legal framework for chiropractic in Germany.

The Association would also like to thank all members, supporters and legal advisers who have accompanied and supported these proceedings over many years.

The decision of the German Federal Administrative Court represents an important step towards greater legal certainty for qualified chiropractors and, at the same time, strengthens a quality-focused and patient-safe approach to care.

The German Chiropractors' Association will now carefully analyse the written grounds of the decision and will inform its members and the public in due course about the specific implications and the next steps.

About the German Chiropractors' Association

The German Chiropractors' Association (Bund Deutscher Chiropraktiker e.V., BDC) represents the interests of qualified chiropractors in Germany. The Association is committed to high educational standards, evidence-informed chiropractic, patient safety and the continued development of the profession.