

## **Executive Summary – Gabriella Parson, RMT October 22, 2014**

Summary of the Discipline hearing before a Panel of the Discipline Committee of the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario held on October 22, 2014

### **Allegations of Professional Misconduct and Plea**

Ms Parson entered a guilty plea in relation to the following allegations:

- falsifying a record relating to her practice;
- disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional conduct

### **The Facts and findings of the Panel**

The facts of the case were established by way of an Agreed Statement of facts which is summarized as follows:

In October 2012, the College received information that about Ms. Parson's practice location purporting to provide massage therapy treatments from Registered Massage Therapists, when in fact unqualified persons were providing the treatments and holding themselves out as Registered Massage Therapists.

After conducting an investigation into the business practices at this location, the College determined that the individuals at the practice location were in possession of pre-signed, otherwise blank receipts, signed by Ms. Parson and was also issuing receipts for massage therapy, irrespective of the fact that Ms, Parson was not the individual providing the massage therapy services.

Given this information, the College commenced an investigation into the conduct of Ms. Parson, which revealed that she had falsified treatment notes in respect of treatments that she did not provide. Ms. Parson also acknowledged that leaving her unsecured pre-signed receipts at the practice location was inappropriate and that it facilitated the issuance of false receipts by others.

Ms Parson admitted to engaging in the acts of professional misconduct as outlined above.

The Panel found Ms Parson engaged in acts of professional misconduct based the facts and Ms Parson's guilty plea as set out in the Agreed Statement of Facts

### **Decision of the Panel and Penalty and Cost Award Imposed**

The Discipline Panel accepted a joint submission on penalty from the College and Ms. Parson, and imposed the following penalty:

1. Ms. Parson received a public and recorded reprimand;
2. Ms. Parson's Certificate of Registration was suspended for a period of four (4) consecutive months, commencing on November 3, 2014;

3. Ms. Parson was required to successfully complete a Registrar approved Record Keeping course, at her own expense, prior to October 22, 2015;
4. Ms. Parson was required to submit to an inspection of her practice, at her own expense, within eighteen (18) months of October 22, 2014, with the costs of the inspection not to exceed \$275;
5. Ms. Parson was required to contribute to the investigation and prosecution costs of the College in the amount of \$1,000, to be paid by April 30, 2015; and
6. The decision would be published in due course.

**Panel's Reasons for Decision**

The Panel concluded that the penalty jointly proposed by the College and Ms. Parson was fair, reasonable and in the public interest. It was similar to penalties imposed in four other cases involving similar conduct.

The Panel noted that Ms. Parson's decision to leave pre-signed receipts at the Spa to allow the Spa to issue false receipts for services rendered by unqualified persons was concerning and showed a serious disregard for professional requirements