



College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Stefan Stefanov, RMT (Greater Toronto Area, ON), February 15-17, 2017 and April 3, 2018

Decision

On October 31, 2017, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Stefanov, a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT), committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

1. sexually abused a client;
2. contravened a Standard of Practice of the profession or a published standard of CMTO, or failed to maintain the Standard of Practice of the profession; and
3. engaged in conduct or performed an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by registrants as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

Pursuant to subsection 51(4.2)(c) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, the Panel made an interim order suspending Mr. Stefanov's Certificate of Registration immediately upon making a finding that he had sexually abused a client and the sexual abuse involved touching of a sexual nature. Accordingly, the Panel made an interim order effective October 31, 2017, suspending Mr. Stefanov's Certificate of Registration pending a penalty hearing.

Penalty Order and Cost Award

At the penalty phase of the hearing, on April 3, 2018, the Discipline Committee ordered the following penalty:

1. Mr. Stefanov was required to appear before a Panel of the Discipline Committee within thirty (30) days of the date of the Panel's order to be reprimanded, with the fact of the reprimand and the text of the reprimand to appear on the public register of the College.
2. The Registrar was directed to revoke Mr. Stefanov's Certificate of Registration effective immediately.
3. Mr. Stefanov was required to reimburse the College for funding for therapy and

counselling provided to the client. Mr. Stefanov was required to post security in the amount of \$16,060.00 to guarantee payment for this funding.

4. Mr. Stefanov was required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$140,000.00 within twelve (12) months of the date of this order.

The complete Decisions and Reasons for the liability and penalty hearings will be available online on the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) [website](#).

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Stefanov

The following reprimand was delivered by the Panel of the Discipline Committee:

Mr. Stefanov, this Panel is appalled by the conduct you have engaged in. There is an expectation of professional and ethical behaviour at all times by those of us granted the privilege of practising Massage Therapy. As Massage Therapists we are in a unique position of authority and trust and are responsible for helping our clients often when they are most vulnerable. Therefore we are held to a higher standard of accountability.

The harm that you have caused the complainant and the profession is irreversible. You have shown behaviour that is disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional. Public safety and public protection are at the forefront of this College's mandate. Although revocation was mandatory in this case, this Committee would not have been satisfied with any outcome other than revocation of your Certificate of Registration given the serious and disturbing nature of your conduct.