



College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Michael Mah, RMT (Ottawa, ON), June 18, 2018

Decision

On June 18, 2018, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Michael Mah, 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 the College, or failed to maintain the standard of practice of the profession;
3. physically abused a client; and
4. 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.

Penalty and Cost Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Mah was required to appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee immediately following the hearing of this matter 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. Mah's Certificate of Registration effective immediately.
3. Mr. Mah was required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$3,000.00 within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the Discipline Committee's order, by way of monthly payments to the College in the amount of \$125.00.

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Mah

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

Mr. Mah, this is your official reprimand. This Panel is appalled by the conduct you have engaged in. There is an expectation of professionalism and ethical behaviour at all times by those of us granted the privilege of practising Massage Therapy in Ontario. As a Massage Therapist, we are in a unique position of authority and trust and are responsible for helping clients, often when they are most vulnerable. You took advantage of your authority in this most egregious way by sexually abusing the complainant.

You have demonstrated behaviour that is disgraceful, dishonorable and unprofessional. Public safety and public protection are at the forefront of this College's mandate. Although revocation was mandatory in this case, this Panel would not have been satisfied with any other outcome other than revocation of your Certificate of Registration, given the serious and disturbing nature of your conduct. Here we have a serious breach of trust - your actions are unacceptable. The Panel is confident that the public is safer not having you as a Regulated Health Professional.