



## College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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### **Discipline Hearing Summary**

**Rostislav Tchepourov (Aurora, ON)**

**March 6-7, 9, 2018 and June 5, 2019**

#### **Decision**

On March 5, 2019, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Rostislav Tchepourov, 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;
4. did anything to a client for a therapeutic, preventative, palliative, cosmetic or other health-related purpose in a situation in which a consent is required by law, without such a consent;
5. 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; and
6. engaged in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as conduct unbecoming a Massage Therapist.

#### **Penalty Order and Cost Award**

At the penalty phase of the hearing on June 5, 2019, the Discipline Committee ordered the following penalty:

1. Mr. Tchepourov is 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 is directed to revoke Mr. Tchepourov's Certificate of Registration effective

immediately;

3. Mr. Tchepourov is required to reimburse the College for funding [for therapy and counselling] provided for the client under the program required under section 85.7 of the Health Professions Procedural Code, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00.
4. Mr. Tchepourov is required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$12,500.00 within five (5) years of the date of this Order, payable in fifty-nine (59) monthly installments of \$210.00 commencing on the date of this Order, where the last and sixtieth (60<sup>th</sup>) payment will be in the amount of \$110.00.

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

**Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Tchepourov:**

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

Mr. Tchepourov, this panel finds that your behaviour was simply unacceptable. While we appreciate the high level of cooperation you demonstrated throughout these proceedings, this in no way takes away from the fact that you were found to have sexually abused your [client]. [Clients] place a high level of trust in their healthcare providers and behaviour such as yours undermines this confidence.

The sexual abuse of [clients] violates the very sanctity of the client-[therapist] relationship and therefore erodes the public's trust in the profession. Sexual abuse can cause long-term and often devastating consequences for the client. This College and the public will not tolerate this type of behaviour from its registrants. Being a regulated health professional is a privilege and not a right.