



## College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

1867 Yonge Street, Suite 810, Toronto, ON M4S 1Y5 | [www.cmtio.com](http://www.cmtio.com) | [cmtio@cmtio.com](mailto:cmtio@cmtio.com)

Phone 416.489.2626 | Toll-free (Ontario) 800.465.1933

### **Discipline Hearing Summary**

#### **Michael Blundell (Bowmanville, ON)**

**December 5, 2019**

#### **Decision**

On December 5, 2019, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Blundell, a Registered Massage Therapist, committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

1. sexually abused a client, more specifically, touching of a sexual nature;
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. received benefits from the practice of Massage Therapy while under suspension;
5. held himself out as a Massage Therapist and used a restricted title during his suspension;
6. engaged in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as conduct unbecoming a Massage Therapist; and
7. engaged in conduct or performed an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the circumstance, would reasonably be regarded by registrants as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

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

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Blundell 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. Blundell's Certificate of Registration, effective immediately;

3. Mr. Blundell is required to reimburse the College for funding provided to 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*.
4. Mr. Blundell is required to post security in the amount of \$8,000.00 to guarantee the payment of any amount he may be required to pay in paragraph 3.
5. Mr. Blundell is required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$5,000.00 within six (6) months of this Order.

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

**Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Blundell:**

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

Mr. Blundell, the Panel would like to acknowledge the respect that you have shown for the process and your presence here today. As you are aware, the College has a zero-tolerance policy for the sexual abuse of [clients], which is derived from the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and is reflective of the mandatory revocation and reprimand ordered for your penalty today.

Your actions demonstrate that you deliberately chose not to take a step back or exercise professional judgment in what was in the best interest of your [client]. We are extremely disappointed in your lack of professional judgment in regard to both the abuse of a [client] as well as practising while suspended.

It is always the responsibility of the healthcare provider to maintain the boundaries of the therapeutic relationship. Your actions have demonstrated a clear disregard for the importance of this vital relationship and that you have failed to respect the power imbalance that exists between a healthcare provider and their patients. Your actions have a negative impact on the public, as well as on the profession as a whole.