



College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Chen Rao (Markham, ON)

January 22, 2020 and July 30, 2020

Decision

On May 4, 2020, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Rao committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

1. sexually abused a client, by engaging in a concurrent sexual and treating relationship;
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. failed to keep records as required;
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; and
5. engaged in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as conduct unbecoming a Massage Therapist.

Penalty Order and Cost Award

On July 30, 2020, the Discipline Committee made the following penalty and costs order:

1. Mr. Rao is required to appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee 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. Rao's Certificate of Registration, effective immediately.
3. Mr. Rao 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*.

4. Mr. Rao is required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$10,000.00 over sixty (60) monthly installments starting September 1, 2020 (59 monthly payments of \$167.00 and one final payment of \$147.00.)

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

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Rao:

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

Mr. Rao, the panel would like to acknowledge the respect you have shown for this process and for your attendance 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.

The panel is bound by the legislation that clearly states that engaging in a sexual relationship with a client will result in mandatory revocation. It is unfortunate that a poor judgement decision must result in the most serious of consequences.