



College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Todd Bennett (St. Catharines, ON)

June 16 - 19, 2020; July 19, 2021

Decision

On May 10, 2021, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Bennett 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, in particular the Standard for *Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse*;
3. provided treatment without consent where consent was required by law;
4. verbally and physically abused a client; and
5. engaged in conduct or performed an act relevant to the practice of Massage Therapy that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

The findings arose from Mr. Bennett's conduct toward a client at (6) six Massage Therapy treatments. The misconduct included (3) three instances of sexual touching and various inappropriate remarks, several of which were also sexual in nature.

Given its findings of sexual abuse, which included touching of a sexual nature of the client's breasts and genitals, the discipline panel issued an interim order suspending Mr. Bennett's Certificate of Registration. The interim order came into effect on May 10, 2021, and was in place until July 19, 2021, when the panel issued its penalty decision.

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

Penalty and Costs Order

On July 19, 2021, the Discipline Committee issued the following order on penalty and costs:

1. Mr. Bennett must 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 College's public register.
2. The Registrar is directed to revoke the Mr. Bennett's Certificate of Registration effective immediately.
3. Mr. Bennett must reimburse the College for funding for therapy and counselling 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. Bennett must post security acceptable to the College in the amount of \$5,000.00 within one (1) month of the date of this order, to guarantee the payment of any amount he may be required to reimburse the College under the order in paragraph 3.
5. Mr. Bennett is required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$20,000.00, to be paid in sixty (60) equal monthly instalments.

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