



College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Jennifer Wilson, RMT (Brinston, ON)

February 26, 2020

Decision

On February 26, 2020, the Discipline Committee found that Ms. Jennifer Wilson, a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT), committed acts of professional misconduct in that she:

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. 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
4. engaged in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as conduct unbecoming a Massage Therapist.

Penalty Order and Cost Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Ms. Wilson 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 the Ms. Wilson's Certificate of Registration, effective immediately.
3. Ms. Wilson is required to reimburse the College for funding [for therapy and counselling] provided [for] the client under the program pursuant to section 85.7 of the Code.

4. Ms. Wilson is required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$3,000.00 according to the following schedule:
 - a. payment in the amount of \$50.00 shall be remitted to the College each month;
 - b. the first payment shall commence within thirty (30) days of the date of this order; and
 - c. if Ms. Wilson fails to make the scheduled monthly payment, the remaining quantum shall be fully paid within thirty (30) days of the missed payment.

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

Reprimand Delivered to Ms. Wilson

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

Ms. Wilson, the panel recognizes and appreciates your cooperation with the College in this matter and the College counsel in coming to an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty in this matter, which assisted in the process and lessened the burden of time and resources upon the College and the profession.

However, your actions undermine the public's confidence in the profession. The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse of clients, which is derived from the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and is reflected in the mandatory revocation and reprimand that was ordered in this case. To be a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right, and by your actions in participating in a sexual relationship with a client, as the panel found, your behaviour was disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional.

You displayed unacceptable behaviour and a total lack of professional judgment. Furthermore, your conduct in having a concurrent sexual relationship rose to the level of engaging in conduct unbecoming a Massage Therapist, which is reserved for the most serious breaches of the professional standards. It is the hope of the panel that by our decision in this matter, a clear and unequivocal message is conveyed that at no time, consensual or not, is it ever acceptable for a Massage Therapist to engage in a sexual relationship with a client.