

# College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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## **Discipline Hearing Summary**

## Zaisheng Ling, RMT (Toronto, ON), March 21, 2018

#### **Decision**

On March 21, 2018, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Zaisheng Ling, 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 CMTO, or failed to maintain the Standard of Practice of the profession; and
- 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.

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

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

- 1. Mr. Ling was reprimanded by a Panel of the Discipline Committee. The fact of the reprimand and the text of the reprimand is to appear on the public register. (The reprimand can be read below.)
- 2. The Registrar was directed to revoke Mr. Ling's Certificate of Registration effective immediately.
- 3. Mr. Ling was required to reimburse the College for funding for therapy and counselling provided to the client. Mr. Ling was required to post security in the amount of \$16,060.00 to guarantee payment for this funding.
- 4. Mr. Ling was required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$10,000.00 within six (6) months of the date of this order.

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

### Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Ling

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

Mr. Ling, this panel is appalled by the conduct you have engaged in. There is an expectation of moral behaviour by those of us granted the privilege of practising Massage Therapy. As Massage Therapists, we are in a unique position of authority and are responsible for helping those who are often the most vulnerable. Therefore, we are held to a higher standard of accountability.

The damage that you have caused this complainant and the profession is irreversible. The complainant was ashamed that a member of our profession would behave in this manner, and the panel echoes that sentiment. You have shown behaviour that is disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional. Public safety and public protection are at the forefront of this College's mandate. Although revocation was mandatory in this case, this Committee would not have been satisfied with any outcome other than the revocation of your licence given the serious and disturbing nature of your conduct.