

College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

1867 Yonge Street, Suite 810, Toronto, ON M4S 1Y5 | www.cmto.com | cmto@cmto.com Phone 416.489.2626 | Toll-free (Ontario) 800.465.1933

Discipline Hearing Summary

Jasil Puniyanikodan (Scarborough, ON)

October 21, 2020

Decision

On October 21, 2020, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Jasil Puniyanikodan, a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT), committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

- 1. was found guilty of an offence that was relevant to his suitability to practise, namely sexual assault;
- 2. sexually abused a client, more particularly, touching of a sexual nature of a client;
- 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, specifically the Standard for Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse;
- 4. physically abused a client;
- 5. 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
- 6. 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. Mr. Puniyanikodan 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. Puniyanikodan's Certificate of Registration [effective October 21, 2020].

- 3. Mr. Puniyanikodan is required to reimburse the College for funding provided [for] the client [for therapy or counselling] 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. Puniyanikodan is required to, within thirty (30) days of the date of this order, post security in the amount of \$8,000.00 to guarantee the payment of any amount he is required to pay under paragraph 3.
- 5. Mr. Puniyanikodan is required to pay to the College costs in the amount of \$19,333.00, within three (3) months of the date of this order.

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