

College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Ihab Waleed Al-Jundi (Windsor, ON)

April 6, 2021

Decision

On April 6, 2021, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Ihab Waleed Al-Jundi committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

- 1. engaged in sexual abuse of a client, specifically, behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature towards 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, specifically the Standard for Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse; Communication/Public Health Standard 11: Pre/Post Treatment Protocol; and Communication/Public Health Standard 14: Client Health Record;
- 3. failed to keep records as required, in particular Part III of Ontario Regulation 544/941; and
- 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.

Penalty Order and Cost Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Al-Jundi is required to appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee immediately following the hearing to be reprimanded, with the fact of the reprimand and the text of the reprimand to appear on the public register of the College.

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¹Part III of the General Regulation, made under the *Massage Therapy Act, 1991* can be accessed at https://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/regu/o-reg-544-94/latest/o-reg-544-94.html.

- 2. The Registrar is directed to suspend Mr. Al-Jundi's Certificate of Registration for a period of twenty-four (24) months, commencing on the date of this order.
- 3. Mr. Al-Jundi 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. The Registrar is directed to impose the following specified terms, conditions and limitations on Mr. Al-Jundi's Certificate of Registration.
 - a. within eighteen (18) months of the date of this order, Mr. Al-Jundi must provide proof, acceptable to the Registrar, of the successful completion (an unconditional pass) of the PROBE Ethics and Boundaries course, which is to be taken at his own expense;
 - within eighteen (18) months of the date of this order, Mr. Al-Jundi must provide proof, acceptable to the Registrar, of the successful completion of the College's Standards and Regulations E-workshop, which is to be taken at his own expense;
 - c. within eighteen (18) months of the date of this order, Mr. Al-Jundi must provide proof, acceptable to the Registrar, of the successful completion of the College's Record Keeping E-workshop, which is to be taken at his own expense.
- 5. Mr. Al-Jundi is required to pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,000.00, within twelve (12) 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>.

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Al-Jundi

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

The panel would like to acknowledge your cooperation in arriving at an agreed statement of facts and a joint submission on penalty, which assisted in the process and lessened the burden of time and resources upon the College and the profession.

Having said that, the panel finds that your conduct was totally unacceptable for a Registered Massage Therapist. You deliberately and knowingly engaged in behaviour that breached multiple Standards of the Profession, including sexual abuse, causing significant distress to your client. You put your client's safety at risk by exploiting your position of trust as a regulated health professional when you violated their boundaries while they were in a vulnerable position.

This panel would like to remind you that being a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right. Actions such as yours undermine the public's confidence in the profession and are not and will not be tolerated by this College. It is our expectation that you will incorporate what you learn in your coursework when you return to practice and that you have learned from this experience.