



Guide to Obtaining Client Consent For Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Abuse by Registered Massage Therapists

This document is for registrants/Registered Massage Therapists (RMTs) to use when obtaining a client's consent to being named (as opposed to anonymity) in a mandatory report.

Under provisions of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, RMTs must file a mandatory report if, while practicing the profession, they obtain information that another regulated healthcare practitioner sexually abused a client. In addition to other criteria, the mandatory report must contain the name of the client who was the victim of sexual abuse **but only if the client consents to being named within the mandatory report.**

Keys points for RMTs to consider before obtaining a client's consent to being named in a mandatory report:

- The information must come to your attention during the course of practising the profession.
- You must know the name of the regulated healthcare practitioner that allegedly committed the sexual abuse.
- You must make your best effort to notify the client, the victim of sexual abuse, of your mandatory reporting obligation.
- If a client consents to being named in your mandatory report, then the College that receives the mandatory report may attempt to contact the client if it investigates the matter further. The College that receives the report may also notify the client of their complaints process should the client intend on filing a complaint against the regulated healthcare practitioner that abused them.
- If the client does not consent to being named within the mandatory report, then it may be difficult for the College that receives the mandatory report to investigate the matter further, since there is no client intending to come forward to substantiate the information in the mandatory report.

Keys points for RMTs to discuss with their client before filing a mandatory report:

- The report will be sent to the College of the regulated health care practitioner that abused them.
- By disclosing their name, it may be possible to take some action to prevent the practitioner from abusing other patients. The practitioner may be disciplined.
- If the client does not disclose their name, it may be more difficult for the regulatory College to act on the report{
- If the client consents to their name being disclosed, the client will likely be approached by a representative of the College that the report should go to. The representative will explain what can be done about the practitioner who abused them. The client can ask this representative any questions they may have.

The following page of this guide contains the Client Consent Form, which a registrant can use to document/collect a client's consent to being named in a mandatory report.



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Client Consent Form

I was a client of _____ (name of the regulated healthcare practitioner) and this person sexually abused me.

This Registered Massage Therapist _____ (name of the RMT) has informed me that they must report my case of sexual abuse by the above-mentioned practitioner. I consent to my name being included in the mandatory report.

(Signature of Witness)

(Signature of Client)

(Print Name)

(Print Name)

(Date)

(Date)

For registrants/RMTs: This form does not have to be submitted to the College. However, we recommend keeping this form for your records.

For clients: If you have any questions before deciding whether to sign this consent form please contact the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario.