

NOTICE OF SURRENDER - Meagan MacRae

Ms Meagan MacRae was referred to the Discipline Committee in relation to the following specified allegations of professional misconduct:

- 1. At all material times, Ms MacRae was the owner of a multi-disciplinary health care clinic. In the summer of 2010, another Massage Therapist began renting space for her massage therapy practice from Ms MacRae.
- 2. By approximately November 2010, the Massage Therapist fell into arrears in her rent. It is alleged that, in lieu of paying the outstanding rent Ms MacRae entered into an arrangement whereby receipts would be issued for massage therapy services purportedly provided to Ms. MacRae and her husband by the Massage Therapist. The Massage Therapist did so without having performed any massages on Ms MacRae, or her husband or any member of Ms MacRae's family.
- 3. In keeping with this arrangement, the Massage Therapist issued seven receipts totalling \$490 to Ms McRae for massage therapy services that had not actually been provided. The receipts included the Massage Therapist's name and College registration number, and referred to treatments purportedly rendered between September 30, 2010 and November 11, 2010.
- 4. Despite the fact that the receipts were false and no massages had ever been performed, Ms McRae submitted the claims to her health benefits insurer, for reimbursement. When she did so, Ms MacRae certified that the claims were true and complete.
- 5. In addition to the seven claims, between approximately May 2011 and November 2011, Ms MacRae submitted additional claims to the insurance company for massage therapy, acupuncture and physiotherapy services for which no treatment was ever performed. In two instances, relating to vision services, Ms MacRae inflated the claims beyond what was indicated in the invoices. In total, Ms MacRae made approximately 47 false or misleading submissions (representing approximately 168 claims) totalling approximately \$5,855.50.
- 6. When the insurance company approached Ms MacRae about the massage therapy services that the Massage Therapist had allegedly provided to Ms. MacRae and her family, Ms MacRae repeatedly asked the Massage Therapist to create additional fictitious massage therapy receipts in an attempt to mask some of her false claims.
- 7. While the insurance company was investigating Ms MacRae's claims, Ms MacRae impersonated her spouse and providing misleading information in regards to their efforts to obtain consent for the release of information involving her children.
- 8. On or about May 29, 2012, after having reimbursed the insurance company \$5,855.50, Ms MacRae pleaded guilty in the Ontario Court of Justice to one count of fraud (in the amount of \$2,205.00) contrary to sub-section 380(1) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. At that time,

Ms MacRae, through her lawyer, acknowledged that the majority of the claims she had submitted to the insurance company in 2011 were false and were based on treatments that had never been provided.

- 9. On or about July 31, 2012, Ms MacRae received a conditional discharge with six months' probation and 50 hours of community service.
- 10. The College alleges that the conduct described above constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to paragraph 11 (practising while in a conflict of interest), and/or paragraph 30 (submitting an account or charge for services that she knew was false or misleading), and/or paragraph 43 (contravening a law), and/or paragraph 44 (disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional conduct), and/or paragraph 49 (conduct unbecoming a massage therapist), of section 26 of Ontario Regulation 544/94 made under the *Massage Therapy Act, 1991*, S.O. 1991, c. 27; and/or pursuant to section 51(1)(a) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (guilty of an offence relevant to her suitability to practise).

On September 24, 2014, Ms MacRae entered into an Undertaking/Agreement with the College whereby she resigned her registration with the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario and has undertaken never to practice massage therapy again or to seek reinstatement of her Certificate of Registration. Ms. MacRae resigned her registration while a disciplinary proceeding was pending.

As part of terms of the agreement with the College a full copy of the Acknowledgement and Undertaking is to be included in the publication and is attached as Schedule A.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS OF ONTARIO

BETWEEN:

COLLEGE OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS OF ONTARIO

~ and ~

MEGHAN MACRAE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND UNDERTAKING

- I, Meghan MacRae, hereby acknowledge and undertake as follows:
 - Allegations of professional misconduct, as yet unproven, were referred to the Discipline Committee of the College of College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (the "College") on January 11, 2013.
 - 2. In lieu of a discipline hearing to determine whether I am guilty of professional misconduct, I wish to resign from the College and cease practising as a massage therapist.
 - 3. I undertake to resign my membership in and certificate of registration with the College immediately upon the signing of this Acknowledgement and Undertaking.
 - 4. I undertake never to reapply for membership, registration, licensure or similar status with the College as a massage therapist. If, in breach of this Acknowledgement and Undertaking, I do so, the College will be entitled to:
 - a. rely upon this Acknowledgement and Undertaking in any registration or other similar proceeding as reason to deay my application; and/or
 - b. prosecute me on the original allegations against me as well as for the breach of this Acknowledgement and Undertaking, and rely upon this Acknowledgement and Undertaking for that purpose.
 - 5. Once I tender my resignation, I will not be entitled to:

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- a. use the title "massage therapist", "registered massage therapist" or any abbreviation thereof (such as "M.T." or "R.M.T.") or equivalent in another language; and
- to hold myself out as a person who is qualified to practice in Ontario as a massage therapist or imply that I am a massage therapist in Ontario,
- 6. The College will include the fact of my resignation and this Acknowledgement and Undertaking in the College Register or in any publication (including the College's website and its newsletter) the College sees fit. When the College does so it will describe the matter in this way:

On September 25, 2014, the Member resigned her membership with the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario and has undertaken never to practise massage therapy again or to seek reinstatement of her Certificate of Registration. The Member resigned her membership while a disciplinary proceeding was pending.

- 7. Upon entering into this Acknowledgement and Undertaking, I will provide the College with a certified cheque payable to the "College of Massage Therapists of Ontario" in the amount of \$2,500.
- 8. The College will seek an indefinite adjournment of the discipline hearing against me.
- 9. I have been advised to obtain legal advice prior to entering into this Acknowledgement and Undertaking.

Signed this Q5 day of September, 2014.

Meghan MacRae

Meghan MacRae (print name)

Witness to the signature

of Meghan MacRae

Witness print name