

## Discipline Hearing Summary

**Juliette Sharone (Aurora, ON)**

**December 8, 2021**

### Decision

On December 8, 2021, the Discipline Committee found that Ms. Sharone committed acts of professional misconduct in that she:

1. sexually abused a client by engaging in behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature;
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, in particular the Standard for *Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse*;
3. practised the profession while she was in a conflict of interest;
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; and
5. engaged in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as conduct unbecoming a massage therapist.

These findings arose after the Discipline Committee found that Ms. Sharone allowed a personal relationship to develop with a client. She also engaged in extensive social media communications, including messages of an intimate and sexual nature, with the client and received a loan from the client.

### Penalty Order and Cost Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Ms. Sharone must 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 College's public register.

2. The Registrar is directed to suspend Ms. Sharone's certificate of registration for 10 months, beginning on the date of the order.
3. The Registrar is directed to impose the following terms, conditions or limitations on Ms. Sharone's certificate of registration:
  - a) Within six (6) months of the date of this order, Ms. Sharone must provide proof, acceptable to the Registrar, of successful completion of an individualized course, pre-approved by the Registrar, relating to preventing sexual abuse and maintaining professional boundaries, which is to be taken at Ms. Sharone's own expense; and
  - b) Within six (6) months of the date of this order, Ms. Sharone is required to meet with a mentor, pre-approved by the Registrar, to review Ms. Sharone's social media and electronic communications with clients. The approved mentor must provide a written report to the Registrar regarding the mentoring session. The mentoring session will be completed at Ms. Sharone's own expense.
4. Ms. Sharone must reimburse the College for funding provided to the client under the program required under section 85.7 of the Health Professions Procedural Code, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*.
5. Ms. Sharone must pay to the College costs in the amount of \$3,475.00, within 12 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 Ms. Sharone**

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

Ms. Sharone, 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 this process. We also appreciate your presence here today.

Having said that, the panel finds that your conduct was wholly unacceptable for a Registered Massage Therapist. You engaged in behaviour that violated the integrity of the client-therapist relationship. You failed to maintain appropriate boundaries and allowed yourself to practise while in a conflict of interest. Your behaviour undermines the public's trust and confidence in the profession. The panel would like to remind you that being a Registered Massage Therapist and a member of this profession is a privilege and not a right. Actions such as yours will not be tolerated by the CMTO.