



College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Mikalovna (Mika) Coyne (Wyoming, ON)

May 4, 2023

Decision

On May 4, 2023, the Discipline Committee found that Ms. Coyne engaged in the following acts of professional misconduct:

1. sexually abused a client (stemming from a personal relationship with 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, in particular, the Standard for *Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse*; and
3. 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. Ms. Coyne must appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee on a date to be set by the Registrar within 60 days of May 4, 2023, 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 revoke Ms. Coyne's Certificate of Registration, effective May 4, 2023.
3. Ms. Coyne must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,852 within 30 days of May 4, 2023.

The complete Decision and Reasons will be available on the [Canadian Legal Information Institute \(CanLII\) website](https://www.canlii.org/).

Reprimand Delivered to Ms. Coyne

Ms. Coyne, you have committed sexual abuse of a client and have shown behavior that is disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional. These actions undermine the public's confidence in the profession.

Revocation of your Certificate of Registration was mandatory in this case, but this panel would not have been satisfied with any other outcome given the serious and disturbing nature of your conduct. You have shown a complete disregard for the public, your client, and the profession.

We hope that this reprimand demonstrates to you and members of this profession that sexual relationships between a registrant and their client will not be tolerated and will carry serious consequences, including removal from the profession. Any form of sexual contact or relationship with a client is a betrayal of that client's trust in you as a professional. It is always the health professional's responsibility to recognize the power imbalance in the registrant/client relationship and to maintain proper boundaries.

Although your cooperation with the College followed months of non-responsiveness, we recognize your efforts in resolving the matter without the need for a contested hearing. Your admissions assisted in the process and demonstrated, along with your sincere expression of remorse, your insight into what you did wrong.

Public safety and public protection are at the forefront of this Discipline Committee's mandate. It is our hope that through our decision in this matter, a clear and unequivocal message is conveyed that at no time is it ever acceptable for a Massage Therapist to engage in a sexual relationship with a client.