



College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Douglas Stephens (Toronto, ON)

May 19, 2023

Decision

On May 19, 2023, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Stephens engaged in the following acts of professional misconduct:

1. was found guilty of an offence that was relevant to his suitability to practise (sexual assault, contrary to section 271 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*);
2. sexually abused three clients;
3. 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*;
4. physically abused three clients; and
5. 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.

Mr. Stephens was given notice of the hearing, but he did not participate. The findings of professional misconduct arose from Mr. Stephens' conduct toward three clients during Massage Therapy appointments in 2018. Mr. Stephens was criminally convicted for sexual assault in connection with that conduct and was found by this Discipline Committee to have sexually abused three clients. The sexual abuse involved touching of a sexual nature of the clients' sensitive areas, including the breasts, and exposure of the clients' sensitive areas.

Penalty Order and Cost Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Stephens must appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee to be reprimanded within 30 days of May 19, 2023, 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 Mr. Stephens' Certificate of Registration on May 19, 2023.
3. Mr. Stephens must reimburse the College for funding provided to the three clients for therapy or counselling under the program required by section 85.7 of the Health Professions Procedural Code.¹
4. Mr. Stephens must, within 30 days of May 19, 2023, post security in the amount of \$10,000 to guarantee payments of any amount he is required to pay under paragraph 3 above.
5. Mr. Stephens must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,852 within three months of May 19, 2023.

The complete Decision and Reasons will be available on the [Canadian Legal Information Institute \(CanLII\) website](#).

¹ Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*.