

College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Hearing Summary

Jeffrey Pitts (Brantford, ON)

August 24, 2023

Decision

On June 15, 2023, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Jeffrey Pitts committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

- sexually abused a client;
- 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;
- physically abused a client; and
- 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.

Mr. Pitts exposed and massaged a client's breasts without obtaining the client's informed consent and without clinical indication to treat that sensitive area.

Penalty Order and Cost Award

On August 24, 2023, the Discipline Committee held a penalty and costs hearing and ordered the following:

- 1. Mr. Pitts must appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee to be reprimanded, with the fact of the reprimand and a summary of the reprimand to appear on the public register of the College within 60 days of the expiry of the appeal period.
- 2. The Registrar is directed to revoke Mr. Pitts's Certificate of Registration.
- 3. Mr. Pitts is required to reimburse the College for funding provided to the client for therapy and counselling provided under the program established under section 85.7 of the Health Professions Procedural Code¹ up to the amount of \$3,400.

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

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- 4. Mr. Pitts is required to post security for that funding in the amount of \$2,500 within 30 days of the date of the order.
- 5. Mr. Pitts must pay costs to the College in the amount of \$48,650 in monthly installments over five years, with the first payment due 30 days from the date of the order. Payments #1-59 will be in the amount of \$810. Payment #60 will be in the amount of \$860.

The complete Decisions and Reasons will be available online on the <u>Canadian Legal Information</u> <u>Institute (CanLII)</u> website.