

## Discipline Hearing Summary

### Lyle Leffler (Woodstock, ON)

November 16, 2023

#### Decision

On November 16, 2023, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Leffler committed acts of professional misconduct after he admitted to:

1. being found guilty of an offence that is relevant to his suitability to practise;
2. failing to take reasonable steps to ensure that the information he provided to the College is accurate;
3. signing or issuing, in his professional capacity, a document that he knew contained a false or misleading statement;
4. contravening the *Massage Therapy Act, 1991 (the "Act")*, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* or the regulations under either of those acts, in particular, sections 85.6.1 and 85.6.4 of the Health Professions Procedural Code, which require registrants to report to the College charges, convictions, and bail conditions or restrictions related to the charge; and
5. engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as conduct unbecoming of a Massage Therapist.

Mr. Leffler was criminally charged with and convicted of historical sexual offences against two women who were not his clients. The offences occurred before Mr. Leffler became registered with the College. Following his registration with the College, Mr. Leffler failed to report that he was charged or that he was found guilty of the offences, among other information. He therefore failed to fulfil his reporting obligations by filing a written report with the College and by falsely answering questions on the College registration renewal forms.

#### Penalty Order and Costs Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Leffler must appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee 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 immediately revoke Mr. Leffler's Certificate of Registration.
3. Mr. Leffler must pay the College costs of \$5,852 within 30 days of November 16, 2023.

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

## **Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Leffler**

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

Mr. Leffler, the panel would like to acknowledge your cooperation in arriving at an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty and Costs, which assisted in the process and lessened the burden of time and resources upon the College and the profession.

That being said, the panel finds that your conduct was unacceptable for a Registered Massage Therapist and a regulated health professional. It is extremely important that members of the profession remain accountable to their regulatory body.

With this penalty, the registrants will be reminded that failing to disclose requested information, providing false information, and failing to report criminal charges and convictions are acts of professional misconduct that undermine the College's ability to regulate in the public interest and reflect negatively on the Massage Therapy profession.