



College of
Massage
Therapists of
Ontario

College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Summary

Yatin Syal (Cambridge, ON)

December 18, 19, 21, 2023 and May 15, 2024

Decision

On February 7, 2024, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Syal committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

1. sexually abused 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 Standards for *Client-Centered Care, Consent, Prevention of Sexual Abuse, and Professional Boundaries*;
3. 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. Syal contravened published Standards of the College when he massaged a client's glutes without obtaining written consent before assessing and treating that sensitive area. This occurred at two Massage Therapy appointments in June 2022. Mr. Syal also engaged in sexual abuse by touching the client's labia during a third treatment in July 2022.

Penalty and Costs Award

On May 15, 2024, the Discipline Committee held a penalty and costs hearing and ordered the following:

1. Mr. Syal is required to appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee immediately following the hearing of this matter to be reprimanded, with the fact of the reprimand and the text of the reprimand to appear on the public register of the College;
2. The Registrar is directed to immediately revoke Mr. Syal's Certificate of Registration;
3. Mr. Syal is required to reimburse the College for funding that has been and that may in the future be provided to the Client under the program established under section 85.7

of the Health Professions Professional Code, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, up to the maximum amount allowable;

4. Mr. Syal is required to post security in the amount of \$2,500 to guarantee the payment of any amounts he may be required to reimburse the College under paragraph 3 above, which can be paid in 17 monthly payments of \$138 and a final payment of \$154, with the first payment due 30 days from the date of this order; and
5. Mr. Syal is required to pay the College costs in the amount of \$26,364, with an initial payment of \$5,000 due within 30 days of the date of this order. The remaining amount of \$21,364 can be paid in 35 monthly payments of \$593 and a final payment of \$609, with the first monthly payment due 60 days from 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 Mr. Syal

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

Mr. Syal, the panel concluded that you committed sexual abuse of a client, an act that undermines the public's confidence in this profession. You engaged in behaviour that violated the physical integrity of your client. You exploited your position of trust towards your client while they were in a vulnerable position. Being a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right. You displayed unacceptable behaviour and a lack of professional judgment that amounted to the most serious breach of professional standards.

We acknowledge your cooperation in arriving at a joint submission on penalty and costs and appreciate your presence here today.

As you are aware, however, the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario and this Discipline Committee have a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse of clients, which is also reflected in the legislated mandatory revocation of your Certificate of Registration. There is no other acceptable penalty when a client is abused by a regulated health professional.