

## Discipline Summary

### Yu Liu (North York, ON)

### August 7, 2024

#### Decision

On August 7, 2024, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Liu engaged in professional misconduct after he admitted to:

1. being found guilty of an offence relevant to his suitability to practise;
2. sexually abusing a client;
3. physically abusing a client;
4. contravening a standard of practice of the profession or a published Standard of the College, or failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession, in particular, the Standards *Professional Boundaries* and *Prevention of Sexual Abuse*; and
5. engaging in conduct or performing 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. Liu was convicted of sexual assault on a Massage Therapy client, which included touching of the client's buttocks, breast and exterior vaginal area. The Committee found that the touching, which did not have a therapeutic reason, also amounted to sexual and physical abuse of the client.

#### Penalty and Costs Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Liu must 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. Liu's Certificate of Registration;
3. Mr. Liu must 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 Procedural Code, up to \$17,370, which is the maximum amount allowable for the client;

4. Mr. Liu must, within 30 days of August 7, 2024, post security acceptable to the College in the amount of \$2,500 to guarantee the payment of any amounts he may be required to reimburse the College under paragraph 3;
5. Any amount of security provided by Mr. Liu that has not been used by March 16, 2027, will be returned to him; and
6. Mr. Liu must pay the College costs of \$5,852 within 30 days of August 7, 2024.

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

### **Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Liu**

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

Mr. Liu, there is an expectation of professionalism and ethical behaviour at all times by those who are granted the privilege of practising Massage Therapy in Ontario. Primary among those expectations is that you must always respect the bodily integrity of your clients and maintain appropriate professional boundaries with them. As a Registered Massage Therapist, you are in a unique position of trust and are responsible for helping clients, often when they are most vulnerable. You took advantage of that trust by sexually abusing your client and causing her serious emotional harm.

Your actions undermined the public's confidence in the profession. The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse of clients, which is reflected in the mandatory revocation and reprimand that [were] ordered in this case. We want you to understand that this is a serious penalty that reflects the seriousness of your behaviour.

We also appreciate that there is evidence before us indicating that since engaging in this behaviour in March 2022, you have taken steps to rehabilitate yourself, to understand the pain that you caused to the client, and to accept responsibility for your actions, including before this panel. We expect that with the benefit of the work that you have already done to address these issues, conduct of this nature will never be repeated.