

Discipline Summary

Michel Sarkis (Stouffville, ON)

March 6, 2025

Decision

On March 6, 2025, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Sarkis engaged in professional misconduct after he admitted to:

1. sexually abusing a client;
2. contravening a standard of practice of the profession and a published standard of the College and failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession, in particular the Standard on *Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse, Communication/Public Health Standard 7: Consent*, and *Communication/Public Health Standard 14: Client Health Record*; and
3. abusing a client physically;
4. failing to keep records as required, in particular Part III of Ontario Regulation 544/94; 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 members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

The Discipline Committee's findings relate to Mr. Sarkis's conduct towards a Massage Therapy client. During an appointment in 2019, Mr. Sarkis touched the client in a sexual manner and engaged in behaviour of a sexual nature. These acts also amounted to physical abuse of the client because they were done without consent or clinical indication and included a massage of the client's buttocks and breasts in a forceful manner.

The misconduct extended to a failure to keep records after Mr. Sarkis's records for this client were incomplete and did not contain documentation and notes regarding patient history, consent for treatment of sensitive areas, or accurate details of the areas treated.

Penalty Order and Costs Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Sarkis must appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee 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. Sarkis's Certificate of Registration;
3. Mr. Sarkis must reimburse the College for funding provided to the client under the program required under section 85.7 of the Code¹; and
4. Mr. Sarkis must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,852 within 12 months of the date of the Discipline Committee's order, in 11 monthly payments of \$500, plus one payment of \$352.

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

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Sarkis

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

Mr. Sarkis, as a Registered Massage Therapist, you were in a unique position of authority and trust and were responsible for helping clients, often at their most vulnerable.

You took advantage of your authority in the most egregious way by sexually abusing your client rather than giving the care you had been entrusted to provide. Your conduct was completely unacceptable for a Registered Massage Therapist and undermines the public's confidence in the profession. You showed a complete disregard for your professional and ethical obligations, and your client's well-being.

The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario and this Discipline Committee have a zero-tolerance policy for the sexual abuse of clients. This is reflected in our penalty order, which includes the revocation of your Certificate of Registration. This panel would not have been satisfied with any other outcome.

Being a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right. The panel wishes to send an unequivocal message of the importance of Massage Therapists preserving the trust and respect of the therapeutic relationship by maintaining professional boundaries with clients.

¹ Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, S.O. 1991, c. 18