

Discipline Summary

Jason Epps (Ottawa, ON)

April 4, 2025

Decision

On April 4, 2025, the Ontario Massage Therapists Discipline Tribunal (OMTDT) found that Mr. Epps engaged in professional misconduct after he admitted to:

1. 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 *Consent, Draping and Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse* standards; and
2. 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 tribunal's findings relate to Mr. Epps's conduct towards a Massage Therapy client during an appointment in 2021. Specifically, Mr. Epps treated certain sensitive areas of the client's body without obtaining written or verbal consent; in one case, he had verbal consent but had not obtained consent in writing. In additional findings, the tribunal concluded that Mr. Epps did not immediately stop treatment when the client requested he do so, and did not properly secure the draping during a portion of the massage.

Penalty Order and Costs Award

The tribunal's order included the following:

1. Mr. Epps must appear before a panel of the OMTDT 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 suspend Mr. Epps's Certificate of Registration for 6 months, to commence on the date of the order;
3. The Registrar is directed to impose the following specified terms, conditions or limitations on Mr. Epps's Certificate of Registration, all of which are to be completed at Mr. Epps' own expense:

- a) Mr. Epps shall unconditionally pass the PROBE ethics course prior to his return to practice; and
 - b) Mr. Epps shall review the College's standards of practice on Client-centred Care, Communication, Consent, Draping and Physical Privacy, Prevention of Sexual Abuse, and Professional Boundaries, and confirm completion of same in writing to the Registrar prior to his return to practice.
4. Mr. Epps must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,852 within 30 days of the date of the order.

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

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Epps

The following reprimand was delivered by a panel of the tribunal:

Mr. Epps, this panel found that you engaged in professional misconduct when you failed to properly obtain a client's consent to treatment, including written consent for treatment of certain sensitive areas. You did not heed to the concerns of your client right away and your draping was not secure.

These departures from the standards of practice on draping and consent show a disregard for your professional obligations and for your client's wellbeing and undermine the public's confidence in the profession.

As a Registered Massage Therapist, you are in a unique position of authority and trust and are responsible for helping clients. You must ensure that your clients are comfortable at all times and that their well-being is at the centre of the decisions they make with regard to your treatment.

We trust that you have learned from this experience and that successful completion of the PROBE workshop will assist you when you return to practice and ensure that this misconduct does not happen again.

Being a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right, and 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.