

Discipline Summary

Joshua Hogan (Thunder Bay, ON)

May 7, 2025

Decision

On May 7, 2025, the Ontario Massage Therapists Discipline Tribunal (tribunal) found that Mr. Hogan committed the following acts of professional misconduct:

1. sexual abuse of a client;
2. 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 for *Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse, Client Health Record, Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Professional Boundaries, Privacy and Confidentiality, and Fees and Billing*;
3. failing to keep records as required;
4. contravening the *Massage Therapy Act, 1991*, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* or the regulations under either of those acts, in particular s. 85.6.4 of the Health Professions Procedure Code; 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 findings relate to Mr. Hogan's conduct in relation to three Massage Therapy clients, with whom he had personal relationships while he was also treating them.

The misconduct also engaged other aspects of Mr. Hogan's practice, including recordkeeping deficiencies by not maintain client records or issuing receipts to certain clients, breaching client confidentiality, and not adhering to COVID-19 protocols by providing Massage Therapy services during a time when the Province of Ontario ordered non-essential businesses to close.

Penalty and Costs Order

The tribunal's order included the following:

1. Mr. Hogan must appear before a panel of the tribunal 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 revoke Mr. Hogan's Certificate of Registration effective May 7, 2025;
3. Mr. Hogan is required to reimburse the College for funding provided to the clients referred to as Clients A, B and C in the Notice of Hearing with number PC-10027, under the program required under s. 85.7 of the Health Professions Procedural Code, up to the maximum amount allowable for each client;
4. Mr. Hogan is required to post security in the amount of \$5,000 to guarantee payments of any amount he is required to pay pertaining to Clients A and B under paragraph 3 above, which can be paid in 16 monthly installments of \$312.50, with the first payment due on May 8, 2025;
5. Mr. Hogan is required to pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,852, which can be paid in 22 monthly instalments of \$266, with the first payment due on September 1, 2026;
6. Any amount of security provided by Mr. Hogan pursuant to paragraph 4 that has not been used by August 16, 2026 will be applied towards the costs Mr. Hogan owes pursuant to paragraph 5.

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

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Hogan

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

Mr. Hogan, the panel recognizes your cooperation with the College in arriving at a joint submission. This assisted in the process and lessened the burden of time and resources on the College by avoiding the need for a contested hearing.

The panel found that you engaged in professional misconduct of a wide-ranging nature that included entering into sexual relationships with clients you were treating, breaching client confidentiality, not maintaining appropriate records, and failing to comply with other regulatory and professional obligations.

These actions demonstrate a complete lack of professional judgment, disregard for client safety and privacy, and undermine the public's confidence in the profession. Further, any romantic or sexual relationship with a client is always considered sexual abuse.

The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario and this tribunal have a zero-tolerance policy for the sexual abuse of clients, and this is reflected in the mandatory nature of the revocation and reprimand ordered in this case.

Being a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right. It is the hope of the panel that our decision in this matter sends a clear and unequivocal message that at no time is it ever acceptable for a Massage Therapist to engage in concurrent treating and sexual relationships with clients.