

# College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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## **Discipline Summary**

## **Kurian Mathew (Mississauga, ON)**

### October 2, 2025

#### **Decision**

On October 2, 2025, the Ontario Massage Therapists Discipline Tribunal (Tribunal) found that Mr. Mathew committed the following acts of professional misconduct:

- 1. was found guilty of an offence that is relevant to his suitability to practise;
- sexual abuse of a client;
- 3. 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 Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse, and Communication/Public Health Standard 7: Consent;
- 4. physical and verbal abuse of a client;
- 5. failing to take reasonable steps to ensure that any information provided by or on behalf of the member to the College is accurate;
- 6. signing or issuing, in his professional capacity, a document that he knew contained a false or misleading statement;
- 7. contravening the *Massage Therapy Act*, the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991 or the regulations under either of those acts, more particularly, sections 85.6.1 and 85.6.4 of the Health Professions Procedural Code; and
- 8. 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 found that Mr. Mathew sexually abused a Massage Therapy client who, at the time of the events, was also his employee. Mr. Mathew had also failed to report to the College that he had been charged and then convicted for sexual assault on the client, as required by law. Mr. Mathew also made false declarations on his registration renewal forms when answering questions regarding criminal charges.

### **Penalty and Costs**

The Tribunal made the following order on penalty and costs:

- 1. Mr. Mathew must appear before the panel immediately following the hearing in 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. Mathew's Certificate of Registration effective October 2, 2025;
- 3. Mr. Mathew 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 Code, up to \$17,370, which is the maximum amount allowable for the client;
- 4. Mr. Mathew must 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, which can be paid in 23 monthly installments of \$105 and a final payment of \$85, with the first payment beginning one month from October 2, 2025; and
- 5. Any amount of security provided by Mr. Mathew pursuant to paragraph 4 that has not been used by June 28, 2028, will be returned to Mr. Mathew.
- 6. Mr. Mathew must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,852, which can be paid in 23 monthly installments of \$243 and a final payment of \$263, with the first payment beginning one month from October 2, 2025.

The complete decision and reasons will be available online from the <u>Canadian Legal Information</u> <u>Institute (CanLII).</u>

#### Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Mathew

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

Mr. Mathew, the panel would like to acknowledge that this matter proceeded by way of a joint submission, which has assisted in the process and eliminated the need for a contested hearing.

The panel finds that your conduct was unacceptable for a Registered Massage Therapist. The misconduct in this case included the sexual abuse of a massage therapy client who was also your employee, which added to the inherent power imbalance between an RMT and their client. You also failed to fulfil your reporting obligations and inform the College that you were charged and found guilty of an offence for your conduct with this client. By failing to report this information, you also made false statements on your registration renewal forms.

It is always the responsibility of the health professional to maintain the vital boundaries that must exist within the therapeutic relationship between an RMT and their client.

Registered Massage Therapists are expected to uphold the highest standard of professionalism, and you failed in a monumental way when you sexually abused your client.

Further, it is extremely important that members of the profession remain accountable to their regulatory body, including by adhering to their reporting obligations. Providing false information to the College and failing to report a criminal charge and conviction are acts of professional misconduct that undermine the College's ability to regulate the profession in the public interest and reflect negatively on the Massage Therapy profession as a whole.