

College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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Discipline Summary

Brian Murray (North York, ON)

October 3, 2025

Decision

On October 3, 2025, the Ontario Massage Therapists Discipline Tribunal (Tribunal) found that Mr. Murray committed the following acts of professional misconduct:

- 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 standards for *Consent, Prevention of Sexual Abuse*, and *Professional Boundaries*;
- doing anything to a client for a therapeutic, preventative, palliative, cosmetic or other health-related purposes in a situation in which a consent is required by law, without such consent; and
- 3. 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. Murray assessed a client's gluteal muscles without obtaining prior written informed consent, as required by the College's standards.

Penalty and Costs

The Tribunal made the following order on penalty and costs:

- 1. Mr. Murray 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 Tribunal directs the Registrar to:
 - a) suspend Mr. Murray's Certificate of Registration for 1 month, starting on November 1, 2025;
 - b) place the following terms, conditions and limitations on Mr. Murray's Certificate of Registration, each to be completed at his own expense:
 - i. Mr. Murray must review the College's Consent, Professional Boundaries

and *Prevention of Sexual Abuse* standards, and confirm completion with the Registrar, in writing, prior to his return to practice;

- Mr. Murray must successfully complete an individualized ethics and boundaries course, to the satisfaction of the Registrar, within 4 months of October 3, 2025;
- iii. Mr. Murray must complete a 500-word reflective essay, to the Registrar's satisfaction, indicating lessons learned from the self-directed review and coursework set out at paragraphs 2(b)(i) and (ii) above and how Mr. Murray intends to implement those lessons in his practice, within 30 days of completing the coursework.
- 3. Mr. Murray must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,852, which can be paid in 12 monthly installments, with the first monthly payment due 30 days after October 3, 2025, and then monthly thereafter, as follows:
 - a. Payments #1-11 in the amount of \$487.66; and
 - b. Payment #12 in the amount of \$487.74.

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

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Murray

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

Mr. Murray, the panel would like to acknowledge your cooperation in arriving at a joint submission with the College, which assisted in the process and lessened the burden of time and resources on both the College and the profession by avoiding a contested hearing.

You are here before us because this panel has found that you contravened the standards of practice related to Consent, Prevention of Sexual Abuse, and Professional Boundaries, all of which clearly require registered massage therapists to obtain written informed consent prior to both the assessment and treatment of a sensitive area. In failing to obtain written consent prior to the assessment of a client's gluteal muscles, you contravened this requirement, which is in place to ensure clients receive the information they need to make informed decisions about care and that professional boundaries are maintained in the therapeutic relationship.

This panel would like to remind you that being a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege, not a right, and that Massage Therapists are always expected to abide by the CMTO's Standards of Practice. Your suspension is an opportunity for you to reflect on your professional obligations and commit to meeting the standards of the profession. We expect you to learn from this experience, and that the successful completion of a

