



Discipline Summary
Aaron Shad (Etobicoke, ON)
February 13, 2026

Decision

On February 13, 2026, the Ontario Massage Therapists Discipline Tribunal (Tribunal) found that Mr. Shad 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 *Client-centred Care*, *Prevention of Sexual Abuse*, and *Professional Boundaries*;
3. falsifying a record relating to his practice; and
4. 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.

Mr. Shad had a concurrent treating and personal relationship with a client who was also his student at the Massage Therapy program where Mr. Shad worked as an instructor. In his capacity as a Massage Therapy instructor, Mr. Shad altered the client's exam answers to give her a better mark. Following the client's complaint to the College, Mr. Shad contacted the client despite being advised by the College not to do so without prior consent.

Penalty and Costs

The Tribunal made the following order on penalty and costs:

1. Mr. Shad must appear before a panel 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 Tribunal directs the Registrar to revoke Mr. Shad's Certificate of Registration effective February 13, 2026;
3. Mr. Shad must reimburse the College for funding provided for therapy and counselling to the client under s. 85.7 of the Health Professions Procedural Code, up to \$17,940, which is the maximum amount allowable for the client;

4. Mr. Shad must post security acceptable to the College in the amount of \$5,000 to guarantee the payment of any amounts he may be required to reimburse the College under paragraph 3, which can be paid over 24 months, in 23 monthly installments of \$209 and a final payment of \$193, with the first payment due 30 days from February 13, 2026;
5. Any amount of security provided by Mr. Shad pursuant to paragraph 4 that has not been used by September 13, 2029 will be returned to him; and
6. Mr. Shad must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,110, which can be paid over 24 months, in 23 monthly installments of \$213 and a final payment of \$211, with the first payment being due 30 days from February 13, 2026.

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

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Shad

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

The panel found that you have engaged in misconduct [that] severely undermined public confidence in the profession and caused your client serious emotional harm.

Both the legislation governing regulated health professionals and the standards of practice of this College place an emphasis on the prevention of sexual abuse and the importance of maintaining professional boundaries. These standards are in place to protect the public and instill confidence in the profession. You violated these standards by sexually abusing your client and failing to maintain boundaries both in your clinical practice and in your role as a massage therapy instructor. We also found that you falsified records and contacted the client following her complaint to the College and without the College's consent, which risked interfering with the College's investigation of the matter.

As a Registered Massage Therapist and an instructor, you were in a position of trust. You abused your authority by engaging in a sexual relationship with your student. The panel would like to stress that client consent is not a defense for a sexual relationship. Your conduct was disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional.

Practising as a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right. We hope that the outcome of this case, which includes the revocation of your certificate of registration, sends a clear message that at no time is it ever acceptable for a Massage Therapist to engage in a sexual relationship with a client. Your disregard for client safety and care erodes the trust the public places in the profession as health care professionals. We hope you reflect on the impact of your behaviour and that you have learned from this process.