

Discipline Summary

David Symonds (Oshawa, ON)

July 20, 2026

Decision

On July 20, 2026, the Ontario Massage Therapists Discipline Tribunal (Tribunal) found that Mr. Symonds committed the following acts of professional misconduct:

1. sexual abuse of a patient;
2. physical and verbal abuse of a patient;
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, the Standards of Practice on *Client-centred Care*; *Draping and Physical Privacy*; *Prevention of Sexual Abuse*; and *Professional Boundaries*; 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 registrants as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

The Tribunal found that while providing massage therapy treatment to a female patient, Mr. Symonds treated the patient's gluteal muscles and chest areas without obtaining prior written consent, touched the patient's breasts, failed to secure the draping, which led to exposure of the patient's breasts, and made an inappropriate comment.

Penalty and Costs

The Tribunal made the following order on penalty and costs:

1. Mr. Symonds must appear before the panel to be reprimanded immediately following the hearing of this matter, 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. Symonds' Certificate of Registration effective July 20, 2026;
3. Mr. Symonds must reimburse the College for funding that has been and that may in the future be provided to the patient under the program established under section 85.7 of

the Health Professions Procedural Code, up to \$17,940, which is the maximum amount allowable for the patient;

4. Mr. Symonds must post security acceptable to the College in the amount of \$6,000 to guarantee payment of any amounts he may be required to reimburse the College under paragraph 3 above, within 30 days of July 20, 2026;
5. Any amount of security provided by Mr. Symonds pursuant to paragraph 4 above that has not been used by August 8, 2029 will be returned to him; and
6. Mr. Symonds must pay the College costs in the amount of \$5,110, within 30 days of July 20, 2026.

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

Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Symonds

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

Mr. Symonds, you are appearing before us having sexually and physically abused a patient and engaged in conduct that was disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional.

You touched a patient in a sexual manner, exposed a sensitive area, made sexualized remarks to the patient, and touched prohibited areas of the patient's body that an RMT is never permitted to touch. Furthermore, you failed to adhere to several published standards that set out requirements related to draping, consent and professional boundaries. Among these are the requirements to obtain written informed consent before treating sensitive areas and draping securely to avoid exposure and separate the areas being treated from those where no touch will be applied. These requirements are in place to protect patients' physical privacy and safety and prevent boundary violations.

Your actions demonstrate a complete lack of professional judgement and disregard for patient safety. As an RMT, you were entrusted with providing care to your patient; instead, you took advantage of your authority by abusing your patient. Your conduct was especially egregious because it exploited the inherent power imbalance in the Massage Therapist and patient relationship.

As set out in the patient's victim impact statement, during the incident she felt an overwhelming sense of fear and paralysis. Your actions have had a lasting impact on her mental wellbeing, relationships, and sense of safety and confidence in healthcare environments.

All of this conduct reflects negatively on the profession, undermining the public's confidence in this profession. The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario and this Tribunal have zero tolerance for the sexual abuse of patients. This is reflected in the mandatory revocation and reprimand ordered in this case. The panel wishes to remind members of the profession that being a Registered Massage Therapist is a privilege and not a right, and that anyone engaging in sexual misconduct will face serious consequences.