

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF  
THE COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS OF ONTARIO**

**BETWEEN:**

COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS OF ONTARIO

- and -

JOSEPH TRAMBULO, Registration Number 11391

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

The Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario has referred specified allegations against Joseph Trambulo to the Discipline Committee of the College. The allegations were referred in accordance with paragraph 26(1)1 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*. The statement of allegations is attached to this notice of hearing. A discipline panel will hold a hearing under the authority of sections 38 to 56 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, as amended, for the purposes of deciding whether the allegations are true. A **pre-hearing conference** may be held at the offices of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario at 375 University Avenue, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, at a date and time to be fixed by the Registrar. A discipline panel will subsequently convene at the offices of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario at 375 University Avenue, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, also at a date and time to be fixed by the Registrar, for the purposes of conducting the **hearing**.

**IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND AT THE HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, THE DISCIPLINE PANEL MAY PROCEED IN YOUR ABSENCE AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY FURTHER NOTICE IN THE PROCEEDINGS.**

If the discipline panel finds that you have engaged in professional misconduct, it may make one or more of the following orders:

1. Direct the Registrar to revoke the member's certificate of registration.
2. Direct the Registrar to suspend the member's certificate of registration for a specified period of time.
3. Direct the Registrar to impose specified terms, conditions and limitations on the member's certificate of registration for a specified or indefinite period of time.
4. Require the member to appear before the panel to be reprimanded.
5. Require the member to pay a fine of not more than \$35,000 to the Minister of Finance.

The discipline panel may, in an appropriate case, make an order requiring you to pay all or part of the College's costs and expenses pursuant to section 53.1 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*.

You are entitled to disclosure of the evidence against you in accordance with section 42(1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, as amended. You, or your representative, may contact the solicitor for the College, Joanna Birenbaum, in this matter at:

Ursel Phillips Fellows Hopkinson LLP  
555 Richmond St. West, Suite 1200  
Toronto, ON M5V 3B1

Telephone: (416) 968-3333  
Facsimile: (416) 968-0325  
Email: [jbirenbaum@upfhlaw.ca](mailto:jbirenbaum@upfhlaw.ca)

You must also make disclosure in accordance with section 42.1 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, which states as follows:

Evidence of an expert led by a person other than the College is not admissible unless the person gives the College, at least ten days before the hearing, the identity of the expert and a copy of the expert's written report or, if there is no written report, a written summary of the evidence.

Date: Sept 7, 2018



Shenda Tanchak  
Registrar & CEO  
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario

TO: Andrew McKenna

Legal counsel for  
Joseph Trambulo

## Statement of Allegations

1. At all material times Joseph Trambulo was a registered Member of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario.
  
2. On or about December 5, 2016, Mr. Trambulo engaged in professional misconduct within the meaning of the following paragraphs of section 1 of the *Professional Misconduct Regulation, O. Reg. 388/08*:
  - a. paragraph 1 (failing to maintain the standards of practice of the profession);
  - b. paragraph 10 (sexual abuse of a patient);
  - c. paragraph 18 (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); and
  - d. paragraph 19 (conduct unbecoming a physiotherapist).
  
3. On or about December 5, 2016, Mr. Trambulo committed an act of professional misconduct under ss. 1(3), 1(4) and s.51(1)(b.1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, which is Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, c.18* (the "Code") in that he engaged in sexual abuse of a patient.

## PARTICULARS OF THE ALLEGATIONS

1. At all material times Mr. Trambulo was a registered Member of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (the "College").
2. On or about December 5, 2016, Mr. Trambulo attended at the home of Patient A to provide a complementary in-home physiotherapy treatment.
3. During this appointment, Mr. Trambulo made sexual comments or remarks to Patient A and discussed inappropriate personal matters with Patient A.
4. During this appointment, Mr. Trambulo:
  - i. Touched Patient A near, under and/or on her breast;
  - ii. Touched Patient A on her upper and inner thigh;
  - iii. Kissed or otherwise put his mouth on or near Patient A's vagina.
5. The above acts of touching were sexual in nature and were performed for a sexual purpose. The above acts of touching were not clinically indicated.
6. Further, the above acts by Mr. Trambulo failed to respect Patient A's personal boundaries, fell below the standards of practice of the profession with respect to physiotherapists maintaining professional boundaries, were undertaken without Patient A's informed consent, and otherwise constitute conduct unbecoming a physiotherapist and conduct that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members of the profession as disgraceful, dishonourable and/or unprofessional.

## APPENDIX

1. Take notice that the documents that have been and will later be disclosed to you will be tendered as business documents pursuant to the *Evidence Act* of Ontario.
2. All documents that are disclosed to you in this matter are disclosed on the basis that they are to be used solely for the purpose of this proceeding and for no other purpose.