

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

BETWEEN:

COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS OF ONTARIO

- and -

USAMA SAFWAT LOUIS RAGHEB, Registration Number 18894

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario has referred specified allegations against Usama Safwat Louis Ragheb 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. A discipline panel will subsequently convene 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 but no later than July 23, 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter 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

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: January 23, 2020



Rod Hamilton, Registrar
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario

TO: Usama Safwat Louis Ragheb

Statement of Allegations

1. At all material times Usama Safwat Louis Ragheb (“Mr. Ragheb”) was a physiotherapist registered with the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario.

2. On or about January 23 and 25, 2019, Mr. Ragheb 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);
 - d. paragraph 26 (failing to keep records in accordance with the standards of practice of the profession).

3. On or about January 23 and 25, 2019, Mr. Ragheb 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. Ragheb was a physiotherapist registered with the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (the “College”) practicing at a physiotherapy Clinic in Ottawa, Ontario (the “Clinic”).
2. On or about January 14, 2019, Patient A attended at the Clinic for a physiotherapy assessment and treatment with Mr. Ragheb. Patient A’s physician referred Patient A for physiotherapy treatment for: ‘glut medial tendinopathy’, ‘troch bursitis left’, ‘adductor tendinopathy left’ and ‘possible impingement left hip vs osteitis pubis’.
3. Following January 14, 2019, Patient A attended at the Clinic for three further physiotherapy treatments, on or about January 17, 2019, January 23, 2019 and January 25, 2019. Following the appointment on or about January 25, 2019, Patient A terminated treatment at the Clinic.
4. In the appointments on or about January 23 and/or January 25, 2019, Mr. Ragheb:
 - i. Asked Patient A to remove her shirt without providing appropriate draping to Patient A;
 - ii. Lifted or asked Patient A to lift her bra, exposing Patient A’s breasts;
 - iii. Touched Patient A’s shoulder, collarbone, diaphragm, chest and/or areas around and/or between her breasts, while Patient A’s breasts were exposed;
 - iv. Lowered or asked Patient A to lower her pants;
 - v. Lowered or asked Patient A to lower her underwear, exposing her pubic area and/or vagina and/or buttocks;
 - vi. Failed to properly drape Patient A’s breasts, chest, groin, pubic and/or pelvic area and buttocks;

- vii. Touched Patient A's buttocks and/or pubic area and/or vagina when her pants and/or underwear were lowered, and these areas were exposed;
- viii. Touched Patient A's chest area, pelvis, groin, buttocks and/or vaginal or pubic area, in a manner that was not clinically indicated; and
- ix. Made comments of a sexual nature to Patient A.

5. The above acts of touching and the comments that were made were sexual in nature purpose. The above acts of touching and commentary were not clinically indicated.

6. The acts set out in paragraph 4 above, 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 conduct that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members of the profession as disgraceful, dishonourable and/or unprofessional.

7. Mr. Ragheb's record keeping in the clinical chart for Patient A fell below the standards of practice of the profession, including by lacking appropriate detail on the assessment and treatments provided to Patient A and by failing to record information with respect to the treatment and treatment plan for Patient A as subsequently described or provided by Mr. Ragheb to the College.

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.