Written Reprimand

Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers v. Mohsan Attique

Mr. Attique, as part of its penalty order, the Discipline Committee has directed that you receive this reprimand. The fact and nature of this reprimand will appear in the public portion of the College Register and will therefore form part of your permanent record with the College.

The Panel has found that you engaged in serious professional misconduct. Between May and July 2024, you exploited a therapeutic relationship with a vulnerable client in order to pursue a marriage and a sexual relationship. You then ended the relationship abruptly, stating that you had lost interest in her. Thereafter, she attempted suicide. You called her disparaging names, told her she should take medication for her mental health, threatened to tell others that she had initiated the marriage, and told her that if she reported you, she would "struggle more". That final statement was an attempt to discourage her from reporting your conduct.

The Panel has determined that this behaviour constitutes professional misconduct as set out in the Notice of Hearing. You failed to meet the standards of the profession, including Principles II and VIII of the Standards of Practice Handbook. You sexually abused a client. You engaged in conduct that members of the profession would reasonably regard as disgraceful, dishonourable, and unprofessional.

Your misconduct is a matter of profound concern to this Panel. You have brought discredit to the profession. Your actions have jeopardized public confidence in social work and social service work. You have let down the public, the profession, and yourself.

It is essential that you understand that your conduct is wholly unacceptable.

The client was vulnerable and sought your assistance, including support with parenting issues. She had experienced trauma in a prior marriage, and you were aware of this. Rather than providing professional help, you exploited her vulnerability for your own purposes.

The Panel acknowledges your willingness to admit the allegations. Your admission spared the client the burden of a contested hearing and saved the College the cost associated with such a proceeding.

Nevertheless, the prohibition on sexual contact with clients is absolute. It exists to protect clients and to preserve public confidence in the professions regulated by this College. Your misconduct represents a profound breach of trust and has caused significant harm. It undermines the integrity of the profession and erodes the confidence that the public must be able to place in social workers and social service workers.