



UPCOMING DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE HEARING

ESSA EGAL

804796

On February 27, 2020 allegations of the Member's professional misconduct were referred to the Discipline Committee for hearing, on a date yet to be fixed. In brief summary, it is alleged that the Member engaged in conduct that violated sections 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.28 and 2.36 of O. Reg. 384/00 (Professional Misconduct), and Principles I, II, III and VIII of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice Handbook commented on in Interpretations 1.5, 1.6, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.8, 3.7, 8.1, 8.2, and 8.6 by:

- (i) failing to be aware of his values, attitudes and needs and how those impact on his professional relationship with clients; and by failing to distinguish his needs and interests from those of his clients to ensure that, within his professional relationship, clients' needs and interests remained paramount;
- (ii)
 - (a) failing to ensure clients are protected from an abuse of power during the provision of professional services and/or failing to maintain clear and appropriate boundaries in a professional relationship;
 - (b) engaging in a professional relationship that constitutes a conflict of interest and/or in a situation in which he ought reasonably to have known that the client would be at risk;
 - (c) engaging in sexual relations with one or more clients;
 - (d) using information obtained in the course of a professional relationship and/or his professional position of authority to coerce, improperly influence, harass, abuse or exploit a client;

- (e) engaging in conduct that could reasonably be perceived as reflecting negatively on the profession of social work;
- (iii) failing to assume full responsibility for demonstrating that a client and/or former client was not exploited, coerced or manipulated, intentionally or unintentionally;
- (iv)
 - (a) failing to be solely responsible for ensuring that sexual misconduct did not occur;
 - (b) engaging in sexual intercourse or another form of physical sexual relations with a client; engaging in touching of a sexual nature of a client; and/or engaging in behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature towards a client, other than behaviour or remarks of a clinical nature appropriate to the service provided;
 - (c) engaging in sexual relations with a client at the time of referral, assessment, counselling, psychotherapy, or other professional services;
- (v) abusing a client physically, sexually, verbally, psychologically or emotionally, including by sexually abusing a client within the meaning of subsection 43(4) of the *Act*;
- (vi) using information obtained during a professional relationship with a client or used his professional position of authority to coerce, improperly influence, harass, or exploit a client;
- (vii) contravening the *Act*, regulations or by-laws; and/or
- (viii) engaging in conduct or performing an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all circumstances, would reasonably be regarded

by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.