



On September 6, 2023 allegations of the Registrant's professional misconduct were referred to the Discipline Committee for hearing, on a date yet to be fixed. Please see the Notice of Hearing below:

**ONTARIO COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORKERS
AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS**

IN THE MATTER OF Sections 26 and 28 of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, Chapter 31;

AND IN THE MATTER OF a hearing directed to be held by the Discipline Committee of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers under the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998*;

AND IN THE MATTER OF allegations respecting the professional conduct of Mary Ann Angeles, a Social Worker and registrant with the said College;

NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will take place on a date to be fixed by the Registrar at the hour of 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon (or as soon after that time as a panel can be convened for the purpose of conducting the hearing) electronically, in writing or in person at the Board Room of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, 250 Bloor Street East, Suite 1000, Toronto, Ontario before the Discipline Committee of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (to be confirmed). The hearing will be held pursuant to the provisions of sections 26 and 28 of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998* (the "**Act**") and pursuant to the Regulations made thereunder, for the purpose of hearing and determining allegations of professional misconduct against you, Mary Ann Angeles, which allegations were referred to the Discipline Committee pursuant to section 24(5)(a) of the Act.

AND TAKE NOTICE that you are alleged to be guilty of professional misconduct within the meaning of section 26(2) of the Act in that you are alleged to have

engaged in conduct that contravenes the Act, Ontario Regulation 384/00 (the “**Professional Misconduct Regulation**”), Schedule “A” to By-law No. 66 of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, being the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers Code of Ethics (the “**Code of Ethics**”), and Schedule “B” to By-law No. 66 of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, being the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers Standards of Practice Handbook (the “**Handbook**”)¹.

I. The following are particulars of the said allegations:

1. From in or about 2018-2021, you were registered as a social worker with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (the “**College**”).
2. During this time, you provided services to [redacted] (the “**Client**”). You provided counselling to the Client between August 27, 2018 to in or around June 2021, until the Client’s death.
3. The Client was experiencing grief and depression and sought support from you with respect to those issues. The Client also sought support from you with respect to her gender identity transition and family relationship issues. The Client was vulnerable at the time that she sought services from you.
4. You became aware, during the course of your professional relationship with the Client, that she was experiencing conflict with her two adult children.
5. On or about December 2, 2019, you discussed end-of-life planning with the Client during a counselling session. During that session and/or other previous sessions, the Client expressed gratitude to you for the services you provided to the Client.
6. On or about December 16, 2019, the Client changed her will to bequeath \$30,000.00 to you. Prior to December 16, 2019, the Client’s two adult

¹ By-law 24, as amended by By-law Nos. 32 and 48 and revoked effective July 1, 2008 by By-law 66, continues to apply to conduct which occurred prior to July 1, 2008.

children were the largest and/or majority beneficiaries of the Client's estate. Following the December 16, 2019 will change, you replaced the Client's adult children as largest and/or majority beneficiary.

7. On or about January 22, 2020, you wrote in the Client's record that the Client was not interested in leaving a "living legacy" letter to her adult children to explain what she desired to communicate to them. You discussed finances with the Client during at least one session, including the payment of outstanding debts, in or around February 11, 2020.
8. You took a leave of absence from approximately June 25, 2020 to January 25, 2021, but continued to communicate with the Client during that time, including by text message. You conducted a "wellness check" on the Client by telephone during your leave of absence.
9. You exchanged text messages with the Client that were not therapeutic in nature.
10. You met the Client outside the therapeutic relationship, including at her home, at McDonalds and at the mechanic. You took the Client shopping and drove her to her home on at least one occasion.
11. You exchanged gifts with the Client, including, but not limited to:
 - a. You gave the Client flowers in or around June 19, 2020;
 - b. You gave the Client a birthday card in or around June 19, 2020;
 - c. You gave the Client a holiday arrangement in or around November 2020; and,
 - d. Upon the Client's death in or around June 2021, the Client gave you a share of the Client's estate valued to be approximately \$30,000;
12. In or around July 2020, you purchased a 2001 Oldsmobile vehicle from the Client for approximately \$250.00 or \$500.00, which was less than fair market value for that vehicle.
13. You failed to maintain records and/or accurate records of all interactions you had with the Client. You did not document the "wellness check" that you conducted on the Client, the text messages you exchanged with the

Client, your attendances at the Client's home, the gifts exchanged, or the purchase of the Client's vehicle.

14. At times, information you recorded in the Client's record was cursory in nature and lacking in detail, and did not facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the effects of the services you provided to the Client, including, but not limited to, information regarding end-of-life planning, expressions of gratitude made by the client, discussions regarding finances, and leaving the Client's children a "living legacy" letter.

II. It is alleged that by reason of engaging in some or all of the conduct outlined above, you are guilty of professional misconduct as set out in section 26(2)(a) and (c) of the Act:

- a) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** and **Principle I of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 1.2**) by failing to observe, clarify and inquire about information presented to you by clients;
- b) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** and **Principle I of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 1.5**) by failing to be aware of your values, attitudes and needs and how these impact on your professional relationships with clients;
- c) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** and **Principle I of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 1.6**) by failing to distinguish your needs and interests from those of your clients to ensure that, within professional relationships, clients' needs and interests remain paramount;
- d) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** and **Principle I of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 1.7**) by failing to maintain an awareness and consideration of the purpose, mandate and function of the organization you were employed by and how these impact on and limit professional relationships with clients;
- e) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** and **Principle II of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 2.2**) by failing to ensure clients are protected from an abuse of power during the provision of professional services and/or failing to

establish and maintain clear and appropriate boundaries in professional relationships for the protection of clients;

- f) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle II of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 2.2.1**) by engaging in a professional relationship that constitutes a conflict of interest and/or in a situation in which you ought reasonably to have known that the client would be at risk in any way;
- g) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle II of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 2.2.3**) by using information obtained in the course of a professional relationship, and using your professional position of authority, to coerce, improperly influence, harass or exploit a client, former client, student, trainee, employee, colleague or research subject;
- h) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle II of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 2.2.4**) by soliciting or using information from clients to acquire, either directly or indirectly, advantage or material benefit;
- i) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle II of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 2.2.8**) by failing to avoid conduct which could reasonably be perceived as reflecting negatively on the professions of social work or social service work;
- j) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle III of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 3.2**) by failing to deliver client services and respond to client queries, concerns, and/or complaints in a timely and reasonable manner;
- k) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle III of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 3.7**) by failing to assume full responsibility for demonstrating that the client or former client has not been exploited, coerced or manipulated, intentionally or unintentionally;

- l) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle IV of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 4.1.1 and Footnote 3**) by failing to record information that conforms with accepted service or intervention standards and protocols within the profession of social work and social service work, relevant to the services provided, and is in the format that facilitates the monitoring and evaluation of the effects of the service/intervention;
- m) In that you violated **Section 2.2 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation and Principle IV of the Handbook** (commented on in **Interpretation 4.1.3**) by failing to keep systematic, dated, and legible records for each client or client system served;
- n) In that you violated **Section 2.6 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** by using information obtained during a professional relationship with a client or using one's professional position of authority to coerce, improperly influence, harass or exploit a client or former client;
- o) In that you violated **Section 2.10 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** by providing a professional service while in a conflict of interest;
- p) In that you violated **Section 2.28 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** by contravening the *Act* or regulations or by-laws;
- q) In that you violated **Section 2.30 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** by influencing a client to change his or her will or other testamentary instrument; and
- r) In that you violated **Section 2.36 of the Professional Misconduct Regulation** by 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.

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Discipline Committee may make an order under Section 26(4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) of the Act, or any of them, in respect of any or all of the above allegations.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the parties (including the College and you) shall be given the opportunity to examine before the hearing any documents that will be given in evidence at the hearing.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if the hearing is proposed to take place in writing, either of the parties (including the College and you) may, in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act*, RSO 1990, c S.22 (the “SPPA”) and the Discipline Committee’s Rules of Procedure, seek to require that the hearing be held electronically or orally by satisfying the Discipline Committee that there is good reason for not holding a written hearing.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if the hearing is proposed to take place electronically, either of the parties (including the College and you) may, in accordance with the procedures set out in the SPPA and the Discipline Committee’s Rules of Procedure, seek to require that the hearing be held orally by satisfying the Discipline Committee that holding an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that at the said hearing, you are entitled to be present and to be represented by counsel.

IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND AT THE HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE OF HEARING, THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MAY PROCEED WITH THE HEARING, AND MAY DEAL WITH THE ABOVE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST YOU, IN YOUR ABSENCE AND WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU.

Dated at Toronto, the 11th day of September, 2023.

By: _____
Registrar and CEO
Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers