

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF  
THE COLLEGE OF REGISTERED PSYCHOTHERAPISTS AND REGISTERED  
MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS OF ONTARIO**

B E T W E E N:

COLLEGE OF REGISTERED PSYCHOTHERAPISTS AND  
REGISTERED MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS OF ONTARIO

- and -

PATRICIA MCLEAN

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**THE INQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS COMMITTEE** of the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario (the “**College**”) has referred specified allegations against Patricia McLean to the Discipline Committee of the College. The allegations were referred in accordance with section 26 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*. The statement of specified 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 **case management conference** may be held at a date and location to be set by the Registrar. Note that in accordance with Rule 6.01(5) of the *Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee of the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, the presiding officer may direct a case management conference to be held electronically. A discipline panel will convene at **a location to be set by the Registrar, or electronically, at a time and on a date to be set by the Registrar**, or as soon as thereafter as the panel can be convened, for the purposes of conducting the **discipline hearing**.

**IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND ON THE DATE FOR 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 your certificate of registration.
2. Direct the Registrar to suspend your certificate of registration for a specified period of time.
3. Direct the Registrar to impose specified terms, conditions, and limitations on your certificate of registration for a specified or indefinite period of time.
4. Require you to appear before the panel to be reprimanded.
5. Require you to pay a fine of not more than \$35,000.00 to the Minister of Finance.
6. If the act of professional misconduct was the sexual abuse of a patient, require you to reimburse the College for funding provided for that patient under the program required under section 85.7.
7. If the panel makes an order under paragraph 6, require you to post security acceptable to the College to guarantee the payment of any amounts you may be required to reimburse under the order under paragraph 6.

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*, as amended.

You are entitled to disclosure of the evidence against you in accordance with subsection 42(1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, as amended.

You, or your representative, may contact the lawyer for the College, Rebecca Durcan, in this matter:

**Rebecca C. Durcan**  
Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc  
Barristers & Solicitors  
401 Bay Street, P.O. Box 23  
Suite 2308  
Toronto, ON M5H 2Y4

Telephone: (416) 644-4783  
Facsimile: (416) 593-7867  
Email: rdurcan@sml-law.com

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

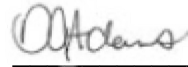
Evidence of an expert led by a person other than the College is not admissible unless the person gives the College, at least ten days before the hearing, the identity of the expert and a copy of the expert's written report or, if there is no written report, a written summary of the evidence.

Further, you must also make disclosure in accordance with Rule 7.01(2) of the *Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee of the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, which states the following:

7.01(2) The parties shall make disclosure as is required by law. In addition, the parties shall, at least 10 days in advance of the hearing,

- (a) in the case of written or documentary evidence, provide an opportunity for the opposing party to examine evidence;
- (b) in the case of evidence of an expert, provide the opposing party of 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; and
- (c) in the case of a witness, provide the opposing party with the identity of the witness.

Date: August 10, 2023



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**DEBORAH ADAMS**

Registrar and CEO

College of Registered Psychotherapists  
and Registered Mental Health Therapists  
of Ontario

**TO: PATRICIA MCLEAN**  
c/o Alexi N. Wood  
St. Lawrence Barristers  
33 Britain Street  
Toronto, ON M5A 1R7  
alex.wood@stlbarristers.ca

## **SPECIFIED ALLEGATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT**

### **The Registrant**

1. Patricia McLean (the “**Registrant**”) registered with the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario (the “**College**”) on or about May 6, 2015. The Registrant is a Registered Psychotherapist that is authorized for independent practice.
2. The Registrant is self-employed and has offices in Bolton and/or Brampton.

### **The Clients**

3. It is alleged that the Registrant provided couples’ therapy to Client 1 and Client 2 from approximately August 2018 to September 2018.

### **Client 1**

4. It is alleged that the Registrant provided individual therapy to Client 1 from approximately October 2018 to June 2020. It is alleged that during this treatment relationship the Registrant:
  - a. Communicated with and/or connected with Client 1 on social media;
  - b. Texted with Client 1;
  - c. Became friends with Client 1;
  - d. Shared personal details with Client 1 including but not limited to her dating status, her health status, her domestic violence experience and/or her family situation;
  - e. Would share her distressed emotional status with Client 1;
  - f. Told Client 1 that the Registrant could not orgasm due to medication;
  - g. Accepted the extensive assistance of Client 1 to set up a new clinic;
  - h. Asked Client 1 if Client 1 would ask Client 2 if he could assist with technology matters and/or take photographs for the clinic website;
  - i. Paid for a marketing course for Client 1 so that Client 1 could assist the Registrant;
  - j. Advised Client 1 that the Registrant would hire Client 1; and/or
  - k. Hugged and/or touched the hands of Client 1 without the consent of Client 1.
5. It is alleged that after certain personal disclosures by the Registrant, Client 1 became worried about the Registrant and/or would follow up with the Registrant to ensure she was safe.
6. It is alleged that Client 1 felt confused about the boundaries between herself and the Registrant.
7. It is alleged that as of December 2019 the Registrant was mindful that she had blurred the professional boundary with Client 1 but did not take any necessary measures.

8. It is alleged that Client 1 told the Registrant that she was jealous during the photo shoot taken by Client 2 because she wanted to be a therapist at the clinic.
9. It is alleged that after Client 1 disclosed this to the Registrant, the Registrant abruptly terminated the professional relationship.
10. It is alleged that Client 1 felt like she and the Registrant had “broken up.”
11. It is alleged that the Registrant shortly thereafter texted Client 1 and apologized and/or advised Client 1 that she was jealous of the relationship Client 1 had with her husband, children and in-laws.
12. It is alleged that the Registrant sent Client 1 an edible arrangement anonymously.

### **Client 2**

13. It is alleged that after the couples' therapy terminated, the Registrant hired Client 2 to take photographs of the Registrant and her staff for the clinic website.

### **Allegations of Professional Misconduct**

14. It is alleged that the above conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(c) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (the “**Code**”) as set out in one or more of the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 317/12 made under the *Psychotherapy Act, 2007*:
  - a. **Paragraph 1.** Contravening, by act or omission, a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession, including but not limited to:
    - i. 1.5 – General Conduct;
    - ii. 1.6 - Conflict of Interest ;
    - iii. 1.7 – Dual or Multiple Relationships; and/or
    - iv. 1.8- Undue Influence or Abuse;
  - b. **Paragraph 2.** Abusing a client or a client’s representative verbally, physically, psychologically or emotionally;
  - c. **Paragraph 16.** Acting in a professional capacity while in a conflict of interest or being in a conflict of interest when acting in a professional capacity;
  - d. **Paragraph 52.** 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/or
  - e. **Paragraph 53.** Engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members as conduct unbecoming a member of the profession.

15. It is also alleged that the above conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(b.1) of the Code as the Registrant sexually abused Client 1 by engaging in behavior or remarks of a sexual nature.

## APPENDIX

1. The documents to be tendered in evidence at the hearing have been sent with this Notice of Hearing.
2. The *Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee of the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario* have been sent with this Notice of Hearing.
3. Take notice that the documents that have been and may later be disclosed to you will be tendered as business documents pursuant to the *Evidence Act* of Ontario.
4. 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.



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**STEINECKE MACIURA LEBLANC**

Barristers & Solicitors  
401 Bay Street, P.O. Box 23  
Suite 2308  
Toronto, ON M5H 2Y4

**Rebecca C. Durcan, LSO #45930V**

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Lawyers for the College of Registered  
Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health  
Therapists of Ontario