



## What should you do if you suspect sexual abuse by a homeopath?

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If you suspect that you or someone else is being sexually abused, please contact the College of Homeopaths of Ontario at (647) 749-4950 or (647) 749-9366 or [info@collegeofhomeopaths.com](mailto:info@collegeofhomeopaths.com).

Don't assume that someone else will report the homeopath and don't worry if you are mistaken. It is important that College investigates these situations.

Please know that it is not your fault. The homeopath is responsible for understanding and maintaining an appropriate, therapeutic relationship. Tell someone you trust, for example, another health care provider, a family member, or someone at the College.

A College staff member can talk to you about what is expected of a homeopath and your right to access funding for counselling and therapy. You can contact the College at (647) 749-4950 or (647) 749-9366 or [info@collegeofhomeopaths.com](mailto:info@collegeofhomeopaths.com).

You will be directed to an appropriate staff member who can assist you in understanding what action can be taken and can accept a complaint made about a homeopath.

Complaints and accusations can be uncomfortable but it is important that the matter be investigated and the homeopath be held accountable for his or her actions and the impact on patients. It can also assist with learning and protects others from harm.

### Sexual Abuse of Patients, Complaints, and the Investigation Process

Information that a homeopath has sexually abused a patient may come to the attention of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario (CHO) in a number of ways, such as:

1. Through a mandatory report from another regulated health professional;
2. In the form of a complaint from a patient; or
3. Through other information received by CHO (e.g. information from an ongoing criminal investigation).

Where a complaint or information is received regarding the possible sexual abuse of a patient by a member, the College will investigate it. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigating committee may refer a specified allegation of a member's professional misconduct or incompetence to the Discipline Committee. Where an allegation has been so referred, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee or the Disciplines Committee may make an interim order directing the Registrar to suspend or impose terms, conditions or limitations on a member's certificate of registration if it is of the opinion that the conduct of the member exposes or is likely to expose his or her patients to harm or injury.

### Complainant's Rights

All members of the public have the following rights in the event that they are sexually abused by a member of one of Ontario's regulated health Colleges:

- To file a complaint and to obtain a review of the complaint without fear of embarrassment or reprisal;
- To be assured that the College will investigate the complaint on a confidential basis;
- To be assisted by a person of the patient's choice during the complaints process;
- To obtain information regarding the review of the patient's complaint. This information may be limited because of privacy or privilege considerations;



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- To be informed of the result of the patient's complaint that, when appropriate, may include corrective or disciplinary measures implemented as a result of the complaint;
- To receive fair treatment;
- In some cases, to appeal to the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board; and;
- If a matter proceeds to discipline and the member is found to have committed an act of professional misconduct by abusing a patient, the complainant who is a patient is entitled to file a written statement with or make an oral statement to, the panel of the Discipline Committee, describing the impact that the sexual abuse has had on her or him, and the panel must consider it before making its order.

### Funding for Therapy or Counselling

The CHO has established a Funding for Therapy and Counselling Program in accordance with *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA). The program provides funding for therapy and counselling to patients of a registered homeopath who were sexually abused by registrants of the College. The CHO's Patient Relations Committee administers the fund.

### Available Funding

The maximum funding available to each applicant is established by the RHPA and is equivalent to the amount that the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) would pay for 200 half-hour sessions of individual out-patient psychotherapy with a psychiatrist. This funding is accessible over a five-year period. Under the RHPA, the funding provided is reduced by the amount that OHIP or a private insurer is willing to pay.

### Choice of Counsellor/Therapist

Patients who opt to apply for funding for a counsellor or therapist are free to choose any therapist or counsellor to provide treatment, as long as the therapist or counsellor is not a relative and has not been found guilty of sexual abuse. However, if the therapist or counsellor is not a member of a regulated health profession, they are not subject to professional discipline by their respective regulatory body.

Applicants can access the fund for more than one therapist or counsellor if they so choose. The funds are paid directly to the chosen therapist or counsellor for the treatment provided.