

IN THE MATTER OF a Hearing of a panel of the Discipline Committee of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario held pursuant to the provisions of the Health Professions Procedural Code which is Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, Statutes of Ontario, 1991, Chapter 18 ("*Code*") respecting one **DR. STEPHEN JOHN SHAUGHNESSY**, of the City of Oakville, in the Province of Ontario;

AND IN THE MATTER OF the *Dentistry Act* and Ontario Regulation 853, Regulations of Ontario, 1993, as amended ("*Dentistry Act Regulation*").

AND IN THE MATTER OF the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act*, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990, Chapter S.22, as amended; 1993, Chapter 27; 1994, Chapter 27.

TO: Dr. Stephen John Shaughnessy
1060 Speers Road, #218
Oakville, ON L6L 2X4

NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE THAT IT IS ALLEGED THAT:

1. You committed an act or acts of professional misconduct as provided by section 51(1)(c) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, being Schedule 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, Statutes of Ontario, 1991, Chapter 18 in that, during the year 2022, you contravened section 2(59) of the Ontario Regulation 853, Regulations of Ontario, 1993, in that you engaged in conduct or performed an act that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical.

Particulars:

- The Patient presented with a concern about a patch on their tongue. You told the Patient that the patch appeared to be hyperkeratosis. You took a photograph of the patch.
- When the Patient followed up with you about the patch, you lied to the Patient. You falsely told the Patient that you had shown the photograph to an oral pathologist and that the oral pathologist agreed that it appeared to be hyperkeratosis and was not of urgent concern. In fact, you had not shown the photo to, or discussed the Patient's case with, an oral pathologist.
- You did not document this conversation in your clinical records.

Such further and other particulars will be provided from time to time, as they become known.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT the said allegations respecting professional misconduct will be heard and determined by a panel of the Discipline Committee of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario ("panel") on a date and time to be agreed upon by the parties, or on a date to be fixed by the Chair of the Discipline Committee, at the offices of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, 6 Crescent Road, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1T1, or by electronic hearing as required. You are required to appear in person or by a legal representative before the panel with your witnesses, if any, at the time and place aforesaid.

ONCE A DATE IS FIXED, IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND ON THE FIXED HEARING DATE, THE PANEL MAY PROCEED IN YOUR ABSENCE AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY FURTHER NOTICE OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

The *Code* provides that if a panel finds that you have committed an act of professional misconduct, it may make an order doing any one or more of the following:

- (1) directing the Registrar to revoke your certificate of registration;
- (2) directing the Registrar to suspend your certificate of registration for a specified period of time;
- (3) directing the Registrar to impose specified terms, conditions and limitations on your certificate of registration for a specified or indefinite period of time;

- (4) requiring you to appear before the panel to be reprimanded;
- (5) requiring you to pay a fine of not more than \$35,000.00 to the Minister of Finance;

or any combination thereof.

Furthermore, the *Code* provides that if a panel is of the opinion that the commencement of these proceedings is unwarranted, it may make an order requiring the College to pay all or part of your legal costs.

The *Code* also provides that in an appropriate case, a panel may make an order requiring you, in the event the panel finds you have committed an act or acts of professional misconduct or finds you to be incompetent, to pay all or part of the following costs and expenses:

- 1. the College's legal costs and expenses;
- 2. the College's costs and expenses incurred in investigating the matter; and
- 3. the College's costs and expenses incurred in conducting the hearing.

If you have not done so already, you are entitled to and are well advised to retain legal representation to assist you in this matter.

You are entitled to disclosure of the evidence in this matter in accordance with section 42(1) of the *Code*. You or your representative may contact the prosecutor for the College, [REDACTED], in this matter at:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

You, or your legal representative, should familiarize yourself with your disclosure obligations under law, including section 42.1 of the *Code*.

DATED at Toronto, this 21st day of December, 2023.



Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

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**ROYAL COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS
OF ONTARIO**

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