
Discipline Summary

Dr. Christy Natsis
925 Pembroke Street East, Suite A
Pembroke, Ontario

Hearing Date: November 26, 2020

Allegations of professional misconduct

- Contravened a federal, provincial, territorial law, municipal by-law or rule of a public hospital
- Disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical conduct

Synopsis

- In March 2011, Dr. Natsis operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Dr. Natsis hit a parked car with her vehicle, left the scene of the accident, and then caused and/or was involved in a collision where a person died as a result.
- In November 2011, Dr. Natsis purchased alcohol in breach of her recognizance not to purchase or consume alcohol or be in a place where alcohol is sold or consumed.
- In 2015, Dr. Natsis was found guilty of Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle Causing Death, contrary to section 255(3) of the Criminal Code of Canada; Dangerous Operation of a Vehicle Causing Death, contrary to section 249(4) of the Criminal Code of Canada; and Breach of Recognizance, contrary to section 145(3) of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Decision

1. Finding

Dr. Natsis pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to both allegations.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Suspension for six months (December 17, 2020 – June 16, 2021)
- Practice to be monitored by means of office visits until April 18, 2023

3. Costs

- Dr. Natsis to pay costs to the College in the amount of \$7,500
- Dr. Natsis to pay monitoring costs

Panel's reasoning

For Finding

- Dr. Natsis did not dispute the allegations and agreed to the facts as presented in the agreed statement of facts.
- Dr. Natsis' findings of guilt under the Criminal Code are relevant to the provision of dental care to the public. Her conduct showed a serious disregard for public safety, and is contrary to the public's expectations of regulated health professionals.
- Dr. Natsis' conduct resulted in the death of an individual, and her subsequent breach of her recognizance by purchasing alcohol – the impetus for the accident and the death – would clearly and reasonably be found by members of the profession as disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical.
- The evidence contained in the agreed statement of facts clearly substantiated the allegations and demonstrated Dr. Natsis' disregard for the health and safety of the public resulting in a tragic death.

For Penalty

- The proposed penalty was a joint submission by the parties. Given the unique circumstances of this matter, there was little similar case law.
- Dr. Natsis' conduct leading to the death of an individual, and the impact of this loss on his family, were significant aggravating factors.
- Dr. Natsis' admission of the allegations, her remorse, and her community efforts since 2011 were mitigating factors.
- The proposed penalty was appropriate in the circumstances. The penalty was fair and achieved the objectives of protecting the public while maintaining public confidence in the profession.

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- The penalty serves as a specific deterrent for Dr. Natsis. The reprimand, suspension, and terms, conditions and limitations on her licence communicate the seriousness of the findings and indicate that this conduct cannot reoccur. Dr. Natsis will incur significant costs and loss of income in order to comply with the order. This also acts as specific deterrence.
 - The penalty serves as a general deterrent to the profession and reminds Ontario dentists of the consequences of breaching federal laws and engaging in conduct that is considered disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional and unethical.
 - The remedial components of the penalty permit Dr. Natsis to learn from this situation and provide a structure that ensures she is practising safely and effectively. For example, when Dr. Natsis returns to practice, she must follow a rigorous monitoring and treatment program for her alcohol use; she will only treat patients under supervision; and her practice will be monitored by the College.