
Discipline Summary

Dr. Jaspal Bhandal
6620 Finch Ave W #3
Etobicoke, Ontario

Hearing Date: May 9-10, 2018

Allegation of professional misconduct

- Used a term, title or designation indicating specialization, when not a specialist
- Inappropriate advertising
- Disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical conduct

Brief synopsis of facts

In 2016, Dr. Bhandal held himself out as a specialist in orthodontics on his clinic website, even though he is registered with the College as a general dentist only, and despite the fact that the term "orthodontist" is a protected title under the legislation.

Decision

1. Finding

The member denied the above allegations and was found guilty. With respect to allegation three, the panel found that the member's conduct in overstating his qualifications on his website was unprofessional and unethical, but not disgraceful or dishonourable.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Suspension of certificate of registration for a period of 6 weeks (*June 17, 2018 – July 28, 2018*)
- Must have advertisements pre-approved by the College for 24 months
- Course in professional/problem-based ethics

3. Costs

- Member to pay costs to the College in the amount of \$15,000

Panel's reasoning

- There was no dispute that Dr. Bhandal's website misrepresented him as a specialist in orthodontics when he is not one.

- Although the member argued that his web provider made the error, the College's Practice Advisory on Professional Advertising clearly states that "the member must control any and all printed and/or electronic material about your practice".
- Dr. Bhandal displayed a disregard for his obligations as a professional by overstating his qualifications on his website. This conduct was unprofessional and unethical, but not disgraceful or dishonourable as he did not demonstrate any moral failing.
- The reprimand and the suspension are warranted in the circumstances and will serve as both a specific deterrent to the member and a general deterrent to the membership at large that this behavior will not be tolerated.
- The penalty reflected that the College had previously made the member aware of the importance of not misstating his qualifications, and Dr. Bhandal signed an Undertaking with the College to this effect in 2008. The panel was particularly troubled that the member was not more vigilant with the accuracy of his advertising due to this previous Undertaking.
- The terms, conditions and limitations imposed on the member, including the course and review of future advertisements will protect the public.
- The member acknowledged the misleading advertising and quickly corrected it.
- The member had not appeared before a Discipline panel in the past.