
Discipline Summary

Dr. Pamela Zakarow
No Current Practice Address

Hearing Date: March 11, 2021

Allegations of professional misconduct

- Disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical conduct
- Failure to cooperate with the Quality Assurance Committee
- Failure to complete the Practice Enhancement Tool (PET)

Synopsis

- Despite several extensions requested and granted beginning in 2015, Dr. Zakarow did not complete the College's Practice Enhancement Tool (PET).
- In April 2017 the Quality Assurance (QA) Committee offered Dr. Zakarow the opportunity to complete the PET or sign an undertaking to withdraw from practice until she completed the PET which Dr. Zakarow declined. Dr. Zakarow requested further extensions due to her personal circumstances that were granted.
- The QA Committee referred Dr. Zakarow to the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) on December 7, 2017 after Dr. Zakarow had failed to complete the PET by the final deadline in November 2017.

Decision

1. Finding

Dr. Zakarow pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to allegations two and three noted above. With respect to allegation one, the member pled guilty to unprofessional conduct and the panel made that finding.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Imposed Practice Restriction – shall not practice dentistry until successful completion of the PET
- Imposed Practice Restriction – must serve a two (2) month suspension once she is eligible to resume the practice of dentistry

3. Costs

- Dr. Zakarow to pay costs to the College in the amount of \$5000

Panel's reasoning

- The Panel accepted the Joint Submission on Penalty and Costs.
- The Panel was satisfied that a reprimand and a two (2) month suspension is warranted in this situation.
- Should Dr. Zakarow wish to be reinstated she must successfully complete the PET. This will assist with remediation as well as act as a deterrent. The publication of these proceedings on the College's website will act as both a specific and general deterrent.
- The Panel considered the seriousness of the misconduct. Although no patients were at risk, the College cannot tolerate noncompliance of its rules and regulations which act to protect the public by members of the profession.
- The Panel considered as mitigating factors that Dr. Zakarow had not been in practice since 2012, having wisely chosen to prioritize her family obligations during a difficult time and voluntarily withdrew from practice.
- The Panel also considered as mitigating factors that Dr. Zakarow had not previously been before the Disciplinary Committee and she accepted responsibility by pleading guilty to the allegations.