

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee  
(the Committee)**  
(Information is available about the complaints process [here](#) and about the Committee [here](#))

**Dr. Verity John (CPSO #77550)  
(the Respondent)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Respondent conducted an independent medical examination (IME) of a patient and provided a third party report in June 2020. She received additional material in August 2021 and was asked to provide an addendum report by August 30, 2021. The Respondent did not provide the addendum report.

## **COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS**

**The Complainant is concerned on behalf of an unidentified patient that the Respondent failed to provide an addendum to a third party report in a timely fashion.**

## **COMMITTEE'S DECISION**

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of March 16, 2022. The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to her failure to respond to third party requests for information and to acknowledge communications from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College).

## **COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS**

The Committee was very concerned by the Respondent's failure to respond to the Complainant's many requests for the addendum report. The Respondent explained that her family experienced health issues, but these occurred months after the August 2021 deadline for the addendum report. The Respondent also mentioned feeling overwhelmed by administrative tasks; however, performing IMEs and completing third party reports is not a necessary part of her role as a physician. It is a service she chooses to provide in addition to her usual practice.

The Committee also considered the Respondent's conduct toward the College to have been inappropriate and unprofessional in this matter. The Respondent did not return or acknowledge multiple e-mails, voicemail messages and letters from College investigators from November 2021 to March 2022, though there was no question that she received them. She provided her written response only after receiving a package from the College that included her previous College decisions.

The Respondent indicated that she did not realize she was required to send in a written response because the College's letters invited, rather than required, her to respond. It is true that physicians are not obligated to defend themselves in the face of complaints, but they are obliged to acknowledge communications from the College. As set out in *The Medicine Act, 1991*, failure to respond appropriately or within a reasonable time to a written inquiry from the College is an act of professional misconduct for the purposes of clause 51(1)(c) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*.

On the basis of the above, the Committee considered a caution to be warranted in this matter.