

**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. Erika Safar Zadeh (CPSO #99648)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Complainant is not a patient of the Respondent. The Respondent is involved in a personal relationship with the Complainant's former husband, who is a family physician. The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the Respondent's conduct.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent behaved in an unprofessional manner toward her in that she:

- **Accessed the Complainant's personal health information and disclosed it to others without the Complainant's consent**
- **Prescribed medication to the Complainant's daughter without seeing her and when blood work had not been completed for one year.**

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of April 15, 2020. The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a Panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to treating a patient in breach of the College policy, *Physician Treatment of Self, Family Members or Others Close to Them*. With regard to the Complainant's other area of concern, the Committee referred specific allegations of professional misconduct to the Discipline Tribunal.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Concern that the Respondent prescribed medication to the Complainant's daughter without seeing her and when blood work had not been completed for one year

The Respondent indicated that she agreed to see the Complainant's daughter on an urgent basis in February 2019 for extremely low hemoglobin levels. The Respondent stated that her partner, the Complainant's former husband, arranged for his daughter to complete bloodwork, and she reviewed the blood work results prior to seeing the Complainant's daughter in person and prescribing treatment for her.

The Committee recognized that the Respondent saw the Complainant's daughter on referral from her partner, the girl's father, and that there was a sense of urgency that the Complainant's daughter was experiencing dizziness, extreme fatigue and shortness of breath during a brief visit to Toronto. Nevertheless, it was inappropriate for the Respondent to provide medical care to the daughter of her romantic partner. The Respondent had hospital connections and could have asked a colleague to see the patient. In the Committee's view, the Respondent heightened the risk of compromised objectivity and her ability to meet the standard of care by treating the Complainant's daughter.

In light of all the above, the Committee decided to require the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person in this matter.

This summary was amended following an appeal heard by the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board ("HPARB"), a decision by HPARB dated November 9, 2021, and the Committee's consideration of the matter on May 5, 2022.