

**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. Philip Nathan Cheifetz (CPSO #17944)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Patient received psychiatric care from the Respondent from December 2011 to November 2021. She contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concern about the Respondent's communication and conduct.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

The Committee considered this matter at its meeting of December 3, 2024. The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to maintaining appropriate boundaries. In addition, the Committee accepted an undertaking from the Respondent that is now posted on the public register.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Patient expressed concern that the Respondent made inappropriate comments and remarks, some of which were of a sexual nature, including but not limited to:

- *Telling the Patient many times that she was sexy*
- *Telling the Patient that his male patient who was a lawyer thought she was sexy*
- *Accusing the Patient of trying to sexually turn him on*
- *Disclosing that he was having a sexual affair with a university student whom he was supervising*
- *Speaking about his sexual dysfunction issue*

The Respondent denied that he made sexualized comments to the Patient. He told the College that he never disclosed any information about his personal health or sexual functioning.

The Respondent did acknowledge that the Patient brought him coffees on occasion and that he accepted the coffees. The Respondent stated that he realized in hindsight that he should have declined these seemingly benign, well-intentioned gestures. He recognized that this was a boundary crossing.

It was not possible for the Committee to determine from the available information whether the Respondent's communication with the Patient was inappropriate in any way. Based on the clinical notes, it appeared that the remarks may have been reasonable in the context of the Respondent discussing the Patient's sexual history with her and addressing sexualized transference in the therapeutic relationship.

However, the Committee was concerned that the Respondent did not maintain appropriate boundaries in his interactions with the Patient by accepting coffees she brought to him and communicating in a manner that she misinterpreted as sexual. The Respondent acknowledged that he crossed boundaries in his conduct toward the Patient.

The Committee decided to require the Respondent to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned in regard to maintaining appropriate boundaries.

This is a summary of the Committee's decision as it relates to the caution disposition.