

**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. John Leslie Dimock (CPSO #31666)  
(the Respondent)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Complainant was referred to the Respondent in September 2020 for assistance in tapering off his medications. The Respondent had several encounters with the Complainant between September 2020 and January 2021. In May 2021, the Complainant requested that the Respondent draft a letter to his employer.

The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the Respondent's care and conduct.

## **COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS**

**The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent:**

- **behaved in an unprofessional manner by making inappropriate comments during his consultation visits**
- **asked him to pay a second fee of \$50 to revise the letter**
- **sent a series of concerning and unprofessional texts to him on June 17, 2021**

## **COMMITTEE'S DECISION**

The Mental Health Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of October 4, 2022. The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a Panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to professional communication and civility. The Committee also decided to accept a remedial agreement from the Respondent with respect to billing for uninsured services and office management.

## **COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS**

As part of this investigation, the Committee retained an independent Assessor who specializes in psychiatry and family medicine. The Assessor opined that the Respondent met the standard of care but demonstrated a "brief lapse of judgement" when "there was an unfortunate reactive tone in the content of the emails" when the Respondent asked for payment and the Complainant refused to pay the second bill. The Assessor also indicated that the Respondent demonstrated "a lack of judgement when he expressed irritation and became threatening over the invoicing of the patient for the provision of two letters."

*Requested a second fee and sent concerning texts on June 17, 2021*

The Committee agreed with the Assessor's conclusion that the Respondent demonstrated a lack of judgement when he used an irritated and threatening tone in his emails to the Complainant. The Committee considered this conclusion in light of the Respondent's history with the College.

The Committee was aware that the Respondent's extensive history with the College included previous complaints that the Respondent engaged in antagonistic and unprofessional communication with patients and other health care providers. The Committee took action on several of these complaints. In particular, the College's Discipline Committee found in January 2018 that the Respondent had committed an act of professional misconduct in matters that related to his professionalism and communication with patients and colleagues.

Upon review of the Respondent's history of complaints regarding his communication, the Committee saw a pattern of behaviour. When seen as a part of this pattern, the reactive tone in the Respondent's email communication with the Complainant took on more significance, given that it could not be considered an isolated lapse in judgement. The Committee saw little indication that the Respondent's communication with patients had improved despite the College's remediation efforts over the years. The caution was intended to address the Committee's concerns in these areas.

The Committee took no further action on the concern that the Respondent made inappropriate comments during consultation visits.