

**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 Paul Hopkins (CPSO #27922)  
(the Respondent)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In April 2020, the Respondent answered “Yes” to the following question on his CPSO Annual Renewal Online Submission Report:

*Have you been disciplined by licensing authority/regulator, other than the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the facts of which you have not previously disclosed to the College?*

The Respondent advised that the discipline referred to was related to the Respondent’s previous registration with the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP), which was revoked following a disciplinary hearing.

In April 2022, the Committee approved the Registrar’s appointment of investigators under Section 75(1)(a) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code* (the Code), to inquire into whether the Respondent has engaged in professional misconduct, including in relation to findings made by a governing body of another health profession in Ontario, and in his interactions with the College related to the reporting of information.

## **COMMITTEE’S DECISION**

The Committee considered this matter at its meeting of December 1, 2022. For the reasons set out below, the Committee required the Respondent to appear before the Committee to be cautioned regarding his behaviour towards his regulatory bodies.

## **COMMITTEE’S ANALYSIS**

### *Findings of the OCP*

As part of this investigation, the Committee obtained information from the OCP regarding the Respondent’s discipline proceedings. In February 2017, the OCP’s Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) released a decision regarding the Respondent, requiring him to complete a Specified Education or Remediation Program (SCERP). The Respondent disagreed with this finding and refused to complete the SCERP, at one point advising OCP staff that he did not care how his refusal would affect his licence. In October 2019, a Panel of the OCP’s Discipline Committee held a hearing and made findings of professional misconduct against the Respondent regarding his

refusal to complete the SCERP. As a result, the Respondent's Certificate of Registration with the OCP was revoked.

According to the related Decisions and Reasons for Decision, during the hearing the Respondent did not comply with requests to speak clearly, loudly, and slowly and he was quoted as saying that he did not care what the Panel decided. The Respondent left the hearing room and refused to return to the hearing, which proceeded in his absence.

The Respondent's conduct before the OCP raised concerns about his awareness of the responsibilities and obligations of self-regulation. Both pharmacists and physicians in Ontario are members of self-regulating professions and have a professional obligation to cooperate with their regulators in a professional and respectful manner. While the Respondent has done some reflection on his behaviour, the Committee remained concerned about his willingness to be governed by a self-regulating profession and his ability to interact with his regulators with appropriate communication skills. The caution is intended to address the Committee's concerns in this area.

#### *Reporting of information to the College*

The Committee took no further action on the issue of reporting information to the College, but noted that it expects physicians, including the Respondent, to follow section 85.6.3 of the Code regarding reporting findings of professional misconduct or incompetence related to membership of another professional body.