

SUMMARY

DR. JOSEPH SAMUEL FALLETTA (CPSO# 20791)

1. Disposition

On October 11, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required General Practitioner Dr. Falletta to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to his breach of his practice restriction (which Dr. Falletta had agreed to in an undertaking dated October 2016).

2. Introduction

The College received information from Dr. Falletta's clinical supervisor advising that had become aware that Dr. Falletta had breached his practice restriction that limited him to only conducting annual physical examinations of boxers. In particular, the clinical supervisor advised that Dr. Falletta had acted as a ringside physician at a boxing match in March 2017.

Dr. Falletta responded by acknowledging that he acted as a ringside physician on a single occasion in March 2017. He apologized for his actions and explained that there were extenuating circumstances that had caused him to act as he had, related to his wanting to help out a family friend. Dr. Falletta stated he was very remorseful of his poor judgment in acting beyond the parameters of his undertaking in what he considered to be an exceptional circumstance, and he noted he had contacted a communication consultant whom he felt could be of assistance in coaching him as to the professional considerations involved in his conduct. He indicated he was willing to enter into an undertaking that would require him to participate in coaching sessions with the consultant as a means to remediate the situation.

3. Committee Process

A General Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the investigation. The Committee always has before it applicable legislation and regulations, along with policies that the College has developed, which reflect the College's professional expectations for physicians practising in Ontario. Current versions of these documents are available on the College's website at www.cpso.on.ca, under the heading "Policies & Publications."

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee had concerns about Dr. Falletta's professionalism, given his breach of his practice restriction, despite clear articulation by College staff in January 2017 of the fact that acting as a ringside physician would be outside the scope of his practice given the restriction that he had agreed to in his undertaking of October 2016.

The Committee reviewed and accepted an undertaking from Dr. Falletta, dated September 4, 2017, which provides that Dr. Falletta will participate in and successfully complete individualized coaching in medical professionalism satisfactory to the College, with an instructor approved by the College, within six months of signing the undertaking. The Committee was satisfied that the undertaking will address the concerns identified in the College's investigation in relation to Dr. Falletta's professionalism in future.

In addition to accepting Dr. Falletta's undertaking, given the intentional nature of Dr. Falletta's breach of his undertaking (albeit with an explanation regarding extenuating circumstances), the Committee determined that it was appropriate to require Dr. Falletta to attend at the College to be cautioned in this matter.