

Duty to Report

STANDARD

A. Duty to Report a Registrant's Practice

Registrants are expected to provide competent, safe and ethical care to clients and that includes responding to situations where a health professional is in contravention of the Health Professions Act (HPA). All registrants of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC (CSHHPBC) are required under the HPA to report incompetent, unsafe or impaired practice or unethical conduct, which may pose a **danger** to the public. The HPA also requires registrants to report any sexual misconduct of a health professional. This includes reporting practitioners who are registrants of CSHHPBC as well as registrants of other regulatory colleges in BC.

Required Reporting

Duty to Report a registrant's practice includes but is not limited to:

- unsafe or incompetent practice
- unethical or unprofessional conduct
- unfit to practice
 - due to physical or mental ailment
 - addiction to drugs or alcohol that impairs the health professional's ability to practice
 - emotional or cognitive impairment
- sexual misconduct

NOTE: If a registrant is hospitalized for psychiatric care or treatment, or treatment for addiction to alcohol or drugs and is therefore unable to practice, it is the responsibility of the hospital or private facility administrator and the treating physician to report this to the applicable regulatory college.

Section 32 of the *Health Professions Act* (HPA) outlines the Duty to Report requirements.

Immunity and Anonymity

The HPA provides immunity to registrants who comply with the Duty to Report requirements, as long as the report is made in good faith and is based on reasonable and probable grounds. CSHHPBC cannot guarantee complete anonymity, particularly if the report leads to a formal disciplinary hearing.

Failure to Report

Registrants are in violation of the HPA if they do not meet their legal, professional or ethical responsibility to report a health professional under the HPA Duty to Report requirements. Registrants may be subject to disciplinary measures taken by CSHHPBC and may also be the subject of complaints if they were aware of a reportable situation and failed to do so. This complaint may be filed by the college to which the professional with the impairment, ailment, addiction, competency or ethical issue belongs. Registrants who report their concerns to their



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employer must ensure that the reporting to the regulatory body is also completed. If the reporting has not been completed, registrants must do so themselves.

B. Duty to report client/family conditions

Registrants must be familiar with the situations which require reporting and these are available in the Registrant's Guide to Client Abuse, Neglect, and Family Violence: Duty to Report & Client Confidentiality.

Registrants may encounter situations where there is a need to report client situations to the proper authorities.

There are a number of situations that require reporting which may include but are not limited to:

- Children or youth where there is evidence or an allegation of abuse, neglect or family violence
- Adult clients who may be the victim of family violence
- Adult clients who may pose a risk to themselves or others
- Vulnerable adults who may be abused or neglected and are unable to seek support or assistance

SCOPE

All active, conditional active and temporary CSHHPBC registrants

RELATED CSHHPBC DOCUMENTS

Registrant's Guide to Client Abuse, Neglect, and Family Violence: Duty to Report & Client Confidentiality

Standards of Practice Framework

"Where's the Line? Professional Boundaries in a Therapeutic Relationship"