



**CPTBC**

College of Physical Therapists  
of British Columbia

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Public Notice under s. 39.3 of the Health Professions Act

## Edward Middleton, RPT

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**Location:** Abbotsford, BC

**Date of Action:** July 22, 2021

**Nature of Action:** Edward Middleton (the “Registrant”) entered into a consent agreement with the Inquiry Committee of the College containing the following key terms<sup>1</sup>:

1. The Registrant agrees to a public reprimand for engaging in unprofessional, inappropriate, and sexual communications with the complainant.
2. The Registrant agrees to a seven-day suspension of his practice of physical therapy, which shall commence at 12:00 am on Monday, August 2, 2021, and end at 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 8, 2021.
3. The Registrant agrees to successfully complete the [PROBE: Ethics & Professional Boundaries Program – Canada](#) (the “PROBE Course”), at his cost, no later than December 31, 2021.
4. The Registrant agrees to write and submit a paper reflecting on:
  - i. how his conduct failed to meet [College Practice Standard 14: Professional Boundaries and Sexual Misconduct](#); and
  - ii. how he will conduct himself in the future, specifically referencing his learnings from the PROBE Course,no later than thirty (30) days after completing the PROBE Course.
5. The Registrant agrees to write a letter to the complainant expressing his regret for failing to maintain appropriate professional boundaries, and demonstrating full accountability for those boundary violations, no later than August 5, 2021.

**Reasons:** The College received a complaint alleging that the Registrant engaged in sexual misconduct by:

1. making remarks with suggestive/sexual overtones in the workplace;
2. sending texts containing inappropriate personal and sexual content to the complainant; and
3. making unnecessary, non-therapeutic, physical contact with the complainant.

The Registrant responded to the complaint by characterizing the communications as “friendly and flirtatious banter” that were both consensual and reciprocal and denied engaging in any non-therapeutic touch. He said

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<sup>1</sup> The terms have been summarized.

that he considered the complainant to be his friend and did not consider the multi-faceted, power imbalance present in their relationship.

On review of the evidence obtained during the investigation, including a large volume of text messages, the Inquiry Committee concluded there was sufficient evidence to indicate that the Registrant:

1. departed from multiple sections of [College Practice Standard 14: Professional Boundaries and Sexual Misconduct](#) and the College's [Code of Ethical Conduct](#); and/or
2. otherwise engaged in professional misconduct<sup>2</sup>

by engaging in unprofessional, inappropriate, and sexual communications.

As a result, the Inquiry Committee decided to resolve the matter by requesting the Registrant enter into a consent agreement containing the above terms to address the concerns it had regarding his conduct. The Registrant agreed and signed the consent agreement on July 22, 2021, which the College will monitor for compliance.

The Inquiry Committee is satisfied that these terms would likely result from any discipline hearing in connection with this matter and will protect the public in accordance with the College's public interest mandate.

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<sup>2</sup> Defined in section [26](#) of the Act as including "sexual misconduct, unethical conduct, infamous conduct and conduct unbecoming a member of the health profession." To clarify, it includes off-duty conduct provided there is a relevant connection to the profession.