



# Duty to Report

## Applies to Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Practitioners, and Speech-Language Pathologists

The College of Health and Care Professionals of BC was created on June 28, 2024 through the amalgamation of seven health regulatory colleges:

- College of Dietitians of British Columbia
- College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Optometrists of British Columbia
- College of Opticians of British Columbia
- College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Psychologists of British Columbia
- College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia

All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the seven colleges remain in place upon amalgamation.

This document was created by the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.

| Standard Category:                   | Standard Title:       | Standard #:           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Professional Standard                | Duty to Report        | SOP-PROF-04           |
| <b>Regulation   Bylaw Reference:</b> |                       | <b>HPA Reference:</b> |
|                                      |                       | Section 32            |
| <b>Authorization:</b>                | <b>Date Approved:</b> | <b>Date Revised:</b>  |
| CSHBC Board                          | September 13, 2013    | September 5, 2023     |

## SCOPE

All Full, Conditional, and Temporary registrants of CSHBC.

## STANDARD

### *Duty to Report Regulated Health Care Professionals*

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* (the “Act”). All CSHBC registrants are required under the Act to report incompetent, unsafe, or impaired practice or unethical conduct, which may pose a risk to the public. The Act also requires registrants to report any sexual misconduct of a health professional. This includes reporting practitioners who are registrants of CSHBC as well as registrants of other regulatory colleges in BC.

### **Required Reporting**

Duty to Report 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.

If a registrant is hospitalized for psychiatric care or treatment, or treatment for addiction to alcohol or drugs, and is therefore unfit/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.

Registrants should ensure that they are familiar with the relevant CSHBC documents (see CSHBC Related Documents below) to ensure that they understand the reporting definitions such as self-reporting, and decision-making processes. In addition, Section 32 of the Act outlines the Duty to Report requirements.

### **Immunity & Anonymity**

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

### **Failure to Report**

Registrants are in violation of the Act if they do not meet their legal, professional, or ethical responsibility to report a health professional under the Act's Duty to Report requirements.

Registrants may be subject to disciplinary measures taken by CSHBC 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 employer must ensure that the reporting to the regulatory body is also completed. In all cases involving a registrant of CSHBC, all Duty to Report information should be directed to the Registrar. If the reporting has not been completed, registrants must do so themselves.

### ***Duty to Report Client / Family Conditions***

Registrant must be familiar with the situations which require reporting, and these are available in the *Registrants' Guide to Client Abuse, Neglect and Family Violence* (CPG-10).

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

There are 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.

## **CSHBC RELATED DOCUMENTS**

*Professional Accountability & Responsibility* (SOP-PROF-05)

*Registrants' Guide to Client Abuse, Neglect, and Family Violence* (CPG-10)

*Professional Boundaries – Where's the Line?* (CPG-05)