



College of  
**HEALTH AND CARE  
PROFESSIONALS OF BC**

## Public Notice

**Registrant:** Steven Wirtanen, Hearing Instrument Practitioner

**Inquiry Committee Order:** Suspension

**Effective Date:** March 30, 2026

**Status:** Current

### Nature of Action:

The College of Health and Care Professionals of British Columbia (the “College” or “CHCPBC”) received information that Steven Wirtanen, Hearing Instrument Practitioner, had, when working as a hearing instrument practitioner, stolen hearing aid devices from his employer’s inventory and sold the stolen items to clients directly for personal profit. The alleged misconduct is currently under investigation and the allegations are **unproven**.

### Action Taken:

In a decision dated March 30, 2026, a panel of the Inquiry Committee (the “Panel”) made an order, pursuant to section 35(1) of the *Health Professions Act*, suspending the Registrant’s registration for the purpose of protecting the public while the matter is under investigation.

### Reasons for the Action:

The Panel found an order suspending the Registrant’s registration was necessary to protect the public during the investigation of this matter. Specifically, the Panel was satisfied there was a *prima facie* case of the alleged misconduct and that an interim order was necessary to protect the public in the circumstances considering the seriousness of the allegation, the nature of the evidence, and the likelihood of the alleged conduct being repeated if an interim order were not imposed.

In particular, the Panel found the alleged misconduct, if proven to be true, amounts to fraudulent conduct for personal financial benefit, which erodes the public’s trust in the profession. The Panel also found that such conduct, if it were to recur, poses a potential risk of serious harm to clients’ hearing health if they had issues with the hearing aids that were sold to them and they were unable to seek remedies through the manufacturer’s warranties. In the Panel’s view, there was a risk of recurrence, given that the allegations did not stem from a single, isolated event but rather from multiple instances of alleged misconduct in a relatively short period and involving three different clients. In the circumstances, the Panel found the public could only be protected through the suspension of the Registrant’s registration and that lesser measures would not suffice.

**Termination of the suspension order:**

The Panel's suspension order will terminate on the day the Inquiry Committee resolves the matter under section 33(6)(a), (b), or (c) of the Health Professions Act or on the commencement of any hearing of the College's Discipline Committee with respect to this matter, subject to the order being cancelled or varied pursuant to section 35(4) of the Health Professions Act.

**Important Note: The order relates to matters that are unproven, unless admitted by the Registrant or determined by the Discipline Committee.**