



Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors

Board Policy: Sexual Abuse

*Approved by
the Board of
the NSCC*

*Effective
March 1998*

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*Pages
2*

Sexual Abuse Issues

1. Any form of sexual abuse by chiropractors is unacceptable to the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors, as defined by zero-tolerance in the Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Patients.

2. Sexual impropriety will comprise any behaviour, gestures, or expressions that are seductive or sexually demeaning to a patient; inappropriate procedures include, but are not limited to:
 - a.) inappropriate gowning practices that reflect a lack of respect for the patient's privacy;
 - b.) inappropriate comments about or to the patient, including, but not limited to:
 - c.) making sexual comments about a patient's body or underclothing;
 - d.) making sexual or sexually demeaning comments to a patient;
 - e.) criticism of the patient's sexual orientation;
 - f.) making comments about potential sexual performance during an examination or consultation;
 - g.) requesting details of sexual history or sexual preference, in any situation where this is clearly irrelevant in a manner that may be offensive or is solely for self gratification;
 - h.) initiation by the chiropractor of inappropriate conversation regarding the sexual problems, preferences or fantasies of the chiropractor or patient,
 - i.) the chiropractor not getting explicit permission from the patient to perform an examination of breasts, genitals, and/or anus; and
 - j.) inappropriate representations of a chiropractic treatment that involves sexual conduct of a level less severe than sexual misconduct

Penalty would include any or a combination of the following;

- a.) Reprimand;
- b.) Apology;
- c.) Fine;
- d.) Costs;
- e.) Conditions on practice;
- f.) Psychological counseling; and
- g.) Suspension or cancellation of registration.

- 3. Sexual misconduct is defined as one of the following;**
- a.) performing intra-anal coccygeal adjustments without gloves;
 - b.) Examination of breasts, genitals or anus under false pretenses;
 - c.) kissing or hugging of a sexual nature with or without full body contact;
 - d.) touching or massaging breasts, genitals or anus, or any sexualized body part for any purpose other than appropriate physical examination or treatment, or where the patient has refused or withdrawn consent.

Penalty would include any or a combination of the following:

- a.) Reprimand;
- b.) Apology;
- c.) Fine;
- d.) Costs;
- e.) Conditions on practice;
- f.) Psychological counseling; and/or
- g.) Suspension or cancellation of registration.

4. Sexual Violation includes:

- a.) sex between the chiropractor and patient, whether initiated by the patient or the chiropractor;
- b.) engaging in any conduct with the patient that is sexual, or may be reasonably interpreted as sexual; including, but not limited to:
 - (i.) sexual intercourse;
 - (ii.) genital to genital contact; and/or
 - (iii.) encouraging the patient to masturbate in the presence of the chiropractor or masturbation by the chiropractor while the patient is present.

Penalty would include any or a combination of the following;

- a.) Reprimand;
- b.) Apology;
- c.) Fine;
- d.) Costs;
- e.) Conditions on practice;
- f.) Psychological counseling; and/or
- g.) Suspension or cancellation of registration.

5. The Board strives to ensure that investigations of sexual abuse complaints comply with the principles of fundamental justice.