

Duty to Report

SCOPE

- All Active, Conditional Active, and Temporary CSHHPBC registrants

STANDARD

A. REPORTING OF 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* (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 risk 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 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 CSHHPBC policy (see *Wellness Program* (POL-INQ-03)) to ensure that they understand the reporting definitions such as self-reporting, decision-making processes and the specifics of a wellness program and how it operates. In addition, Section 32 of the HPA outlines the Duty to Report requirements.

Immunity and Anonymity

The HPA 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. CSHHPBC cannot guarantee complete anonymity, particularly if the report leads to a formal disciplinary hearing.

Duty to Report

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

B. 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: Duty to Report & Client Confidentiality* (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

RELATED CSHHPBC DOCUMENTS

Professional Accountability & Responsibility (SOP-PROF-05)

Registrants' Guide to Client Abuse, Neglect, and Family Violence: Duty to Report & Client Confidentiality (CPG-10)

Standards of Practice Framework (CORE-01)

Wellness Program (POL-INV-03)

Where's the Line? Professional Boundaries in a Therapeutic Relationship (CPG-05)