

**COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS OF ONTARIO
DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

PANEL:

**Donna Barker, Chairperson
Hunaida Abboud, Member
Allan Freedman, Public Member
Zuher Ismail, Member**

BETWEEN:

**COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPISTS OF ONARIO**

**REBECCA DURCAN and
MAYA PEARLSTON
for the
College of Occupational
Therapists of Ontario**

- and -

STEPHANIE ZUBRISKI

**VALERIE WISE and
ROZMIN MEDIRATTA
for
Stephanie Zubriski**

**BRIAN GOVER and
LUISA RITACCA
Independent Legal Counsel (“ILC”)**

REPRIMAND

1. Ms. Zubriski, the Discipline Panel has found you guilty of three serious allegations of professional misconduct. They are:

- sexually abusing a client, namely [REDACTED];
- engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members of the profession as disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional; and
- engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members of the profession as conduct unbecoming an Occupational Therapist.

2. Although it is being administered virtually – that is, by videoconference – this reprimand is being administered as if we were in a hearing room. It is open to the public and it is “on the record”. Furthermore, the fact that you have received this reprimand will be part of the public portion of the College’s Register and, as such, part of your record with the College.

3. Had Ms Zubriski attended today, she would have been given an opportunity to make a statement at the end of the reprimand. This would *not* have been an opportunity for her to review the Panel’s decision, *nor* a time for her to debate the merits of our decision.

4. Ms. Zubriski, by your conduct you have brought disgrace to the occupational therapy profession and yourself. Certain aspects of your conduct suggest that you knew what you were doing was wrong and that you knew an OT-client relationship existed when you engaged in an intimate relationship with [REDACTED]. It was clear to the Panel that you encouraged [REDACTED] and took advantage of your position as a trusted health professional to have that

relationship with him. It is untenable to suggest – as you seem to have done from time to time – that [REDACTED], or any client, can be held responsible, in any way, for the inappropriate actions of their Occupational Therapist. We find it both troubling and unfortunate that someone with your education and prospects could be so lacking in insight to have engaged in an intimate relationship with a vulnerable client like [REDACTED].

5. We truly regret that your actions appear to have ended a promising occupational therapy career at this time, one that could have benefitted many people. You could have served as a role model for others. Sadly, you will now only serve as an example of what can happen when the decision is made to ignore one's basic professional obligations.

6. You have embarrassed the profession and The Bridge – both of which put their trust in you to act professionally.

7. The emotional harm you may have caused [REDACTED] is not fully understood by the Panel, but it was abundantly clear to us that what you did cause him serious harm. The Panel hopes that you have or will come to have remorse for the pain you have caused him.

8. Your certificate of registration has been revoked. You are ineligible to apply for reinstatement for a period of five years. The Panel hopes you might use that time in some positive way. For example, you might consider helping to prevent sexual abuse of other clients who have placed their trust in a health professional.

9. This matter is now concluded. I would ask College staff to ensure that a copy of my remarks be delivered to Ms. Zubriski and that a summary be included on the College Register, as required by the statute.