

Physician facing loss of licence flouted watchdog's restrictions

Doctor admits to smoking pot, having sex with patients in office

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Dr. Sharif Tadros didn't say a word at the sexual abuse hearing that would determine whether he'd lose his medical licence. He let his lawyer confess for him.

"He admits to the allegations," said lawyer Mark Veneziano.

Wearing a baby blue blazer and a dark tie, Tadros spent much of the disciplinary hearing slumped over his desk with his head in his hands.

Tadros is accused of sexually abusing three of his patients in his office, smoking marijuana with one of them, and continuing to treat female patients after he

was restricted from doing so.

The Star highlighted Dr. Tadros last autumn as one of the Ontario doctors who had been allowed to continue practising medicine after being accused of sexual abuse. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) has placed gender-based restrictions on about 20 doctors in the province, which allows them to continue to treat patients of one sex.

But when reporters arrived at Tadros's office last November, there was no sign informing patients that he could not treat women, as mandated by the College.

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Sexual relationships date back to 1989

DOCTOR from A1

The Star also revealed that Tadros had continued to treat women with Botox injections at a different private clinic in Burlington, without informing the owner that he was not permitted to do so.

Shortly after the article was published, Tadros's licence to practise medicine was fully suspended. Now, because Tadros had admitted to having sex with his patients — which constitutes sexual abuse, regardless of consent — he faces mandatory revocation of his medical licence.

His lawyer, Veneziano, did not respond to a request for comment.

A full agreed statement of facts has been promised to the college this week. A brief four-page synopsis was submitted Monday.

In it, Tadros admitted to having had sexual relationships with three female patients as far back as 1989. In two cases, he continued to treat their husbands and children while having sex with the mothers, sometimes in his office. In the third case, he smoked marijuana with the patient in his office, had sex with her there — and then tried to cover it up.

“Dr. Tadros failed to co-operate in the college's investigation,” the synopsis stated. “He produced a falsified chart for Patient A in order to mislead the college and support his false assertion that Patient A was never



The College of Physicians and Surgeons may revoke the medical licence of Dr. Sharif Tadros.

his patient.”

On July 15 last year, the college placed a gender-based restriction on Tadros's medical licence, requiring him to have another health professional present every time he treated a female patient. He continued to treat women alone.

On Sept. 16, the college reinforced the restrictions, stipulating that he could not treat women at all. He again ignored the college and “continued to have professional encounters and interactions with multiple female patients.”

On Nov. 7, the college finally suspended his licence entirely.

The CPSO can't just issue a restriction and trust the doctor to follow it, said medical-malpractice lawyer Wendy Moore Mandel, who is not involved in the case.

“In my opinion, patients of Dr. Tadros had a right to know about the gender-based restrictions on the doctor's licence and that right to know imparts a responsibility on the College of Physicians and Surgeons to effectively educate the public,” she wrote in an email.