# Website Publication of Hearings and Appeals in the Discipline Process

In November, ACSLPA's Council approved revised bylaws that included the ability for ACSLPA to publish decisions and other relevant information related to Hearings and Appeals in the discipline process. Specifically, Council approved <u>bylaws 63 and 64</u> that authorize the publication of:

- Information concerning upcoming and/or scheduled hearings or appeals on acsipa.ca; and
- Information from <u>Hearing Tribunal decisions</u><sup>1</sup>, Council appeal decisions, resolution agreements and other decisions within Part 4 of the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*.

Although regulated members were provided an opportunity to submit feedback in the process of revising ACSLPA's bylaws, it is important that all regulated members are reminded of these changes as they relate to fulfilling ACSLPA's mandate and regulatory functions.

# Why Publication?

AC SLP

insights

The heart of ACSLPA's regulatory function is to protect the public, and subsequently the public interest. This includes ensuring that regulated members are practicing to the minimum standard expected, taking steps to ensure the public are protected from harm caused by regulated professionals, and to maintain the integrity and trust in the governed professions. A meaningful way for a college to foster this trust is through publications of conduct outcomes, such as hearing decisions or resolution agreements, or alternatively of upcoming conduct proceedings, such as hearings or appeals.

Publication promotes the mandate of a college and ensures that the public (including regulated members, professionals from other provinces or colleges, employers, and the government) can access decisions. It also promotes transparency into ACSLPA's regulatory functions by offering reasonable expectations of potential outcomes for the public by presenting examples of

outcomes that can be reviewed prior to making a complaint; offering real examples of unprofessional conduct for the public, including regulated members; and offering information so the public can make informed choices about their health practitioner and services.

Importantly, all publications are balanced with ACSLPA's privacy obligations and will be redacted to ensure personal and health information is protected as required by the *HPA*.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Although ACSLPA is required to publish decisions of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct indefinitely pursuant to the *HPA*, the bylaw relates to all other findings of unprofessional conduct made by the Hearing Tribunal.

# Website Publication of Hearings and Appeals in the Discipline Process continued

#### What Can Publication Include?

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There are many types of publication possible based on the bylaws. Below are the most frequent or likely types of publication. Overall, regulated members are encouraged to make themselves familiar with ACSLPA's website and the possibility of publications related to Conduct proceedings.

### **Upcoming Hearings or Appeals**

Publication of upcoming and/or scheduled hearings or appeals are required to include the date, time and location of a hearing. They will also generally include the name and registration number of the regulated member whose conduct is under review by the Hearing Tribunal. They may also include:

- The allegations, or a summary of the allegations, before the Hearing Tribunal.
- The issues, or a summary of the issues, to be determined on appeal by Council.

## **Hearing Tribunal Decisions**

Publication of Hearing Tribunal decisions generally include the name and registration number of the regulated member whose conduct was under review by the Hearing Tribunal. They also will likely include:

- A summary of witness or documentary evidence.
- The reasons of the Hearing Tribunal, including on any legal issues.
- Whether or not the conduct was determined to be unprofessional conduct.
- What sanction was ordered by the Hearing Tribunal.

## **Resolution Agreement Summaries**

Publication of executed resolution agreements generally are in summary format and are based on what was agreed to within the resolution agreement between a regulated member and ACSLPA. They will generally include the name of the regulated member They may include:

- A summary of the admitted conduct that may be unprofessional.
- A summary of what remediation was agreed to within the resolution agreement.
- Relevant details of the complaint, including facts collected during an investigation, made about the regulated member.

For any questions regarding publication, please contact the Complaints Director using the <u>Contact Us</u> form on ACSLPA's website. Please note that this article is general information and is not intended to be, nor should be interpreted, as legal advice.