



Discipline Decision

Mr. Lyle Willier

A hearing of the Discipline Committee of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers was conducted in Regina, Saskatchewan on August 13, 2019, and September 17, 2019, with respect to a complaint against Mr. Willier.

The charges brought before the Discipline Committee, as recommended by the Professional Conduct Committee following their investigation were:

While serving as a mental health therapist for Health Canada and a Indian Band Health Services in Saskatchewan, professional boundaries were crossed by:

- a. Offering to drive a minor child to a city for weekend of shopping, without seeking approval or consent from the child's parent and without any plan for the child's accommodation
- b. Offering the minor child the sum of \$200.00 as a gift of spending money for shopping without seeking approval or consent from the child's parent
- c. Stating to the child that Mr. Willier "would treat her like her mom should treat her"

The Discipline Committee heard evidence presented through testimony of a number of witnesses along with documentation submitted for the Professional Conduct Committee. The Discipline Committee concluded that evidence supported a finding that Mr. Willier did offer to drive the child to the city without parental consent and offered the child \$200 spending money without parental consent. The Discipline Committee found no evidence to support the statement in c. above. Thus, the Discipline Committee found Mr. Willier guilty of Professional Misconduct as defined in the *Social Workers Act, 1993*. The Discipline Committee found Mr. Willier violated Value 1 and Value 4 of the *CASW Code of Ethics*, and 1.1.1; 1.1.4; 2.1.1 of *the Guidelines for Ethical Practice (CASW, 2005)*.

A Penalty Hearing convened December 16, 2019. On January 16, 2020, the order of the Discipline Committee, Pursuant to *the Social Workers Act, SS1993,cS-52*, included that:

1. Mr. Willier shall be reprimanded.
2. Mr. Willier shall not be entitled to apply for admission and reinstatement for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of the Discipline Committee Order. If an application is brought, Mr. Willier shall comply with the usual requirements of reinstatement as set out in the Act and Bylaws
3. Assuming Mr. Willier is reinstated, he may continue to practice under the condition that within one (1) year of the Discipline Committee Order, he successfully complete a course acceptable to the Registrar that deals with

professional boundaries and appropriate communication with children and youth. Mr. Willier shall bear the cost of any course. Until such time he completes the said course, and in the event he chooses to engage in a practice which includes children and youth, Mr. Willier shall be supervised by a supervisor approved by the Registrar.

4. Mr. Willier shall pay the costs of the investigation and hearing which shall be fixed in the amount of \$12,000. The costs shall be paid on or before January 14, 2022. Failing payment on January 14, 2022 and assuming Mr. Willier is a member of the SASW of January 14, 2022, he shall stand suspended pursuant to Section 29(2)(b) of the Act until payment of the costs are made.
5. A digest of the decision be posted on the SASW website and in the SASW newsletter.