



## Discipline Decision Summary

### Ms. Brianne Santha

A hearing of the Discipline Committee of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers ("SASW") pursuant to Section 28 of the *Social Workers Act* was conducted virtually (via Zoom) on June 14, 2021 with respect to a complaint against Ms. Brianne Santha (SASW Reg.#4455).

The Professional Conduct Committee's investigation resulted in the following charges:

‘While you were employed as a therapist:

- (a) You disclosed confidential information about Client #1
- (b) You initiated a close personal relationship with Client #2,
- (c) You initiated and continued a close personal relationship with Client #2's children after this client and family were discharged from the program.
- (d) Further to charge 1(c), you did not document your continued contact after the family had been discharged from the Program.’”

The matter proceeded by Agreed Statement of Facts with Ms. Santha admitting guilt to the charges as presented.

The Discipline Committee accepted Ms. Santha's guilty plea and her acknowledgment and admission that her actions constitute professional misconduct as that term is defined in section 30 of *The Social Workers Act, SS 1993* and the sections of the *SASW General Bylaws, SASW Standards of Practice for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan* and *The Canadian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice* identified in the charges.

The Discipline Committee’s penalty order dated July 5, 2021 included:

1. Pursuant to section 29(1)(e) of *The Social Workers Act* (the "Act") Brianne Santha shall be reprimanded.
2. Pursuant to section 29(1)(b) of the Act, Ms. Santha shall not be entitled to reapply for registration with the SASW for a period of two years from the date of the Order. Prior to such an application for

reregistration being submitted, Ms. Santha shall successfully complete an ethics and boundaries course and bear the costs of that course.

3. Pursuant to section 29(1)(d) of the Act and upon reinstatement, Ms. Santha's shall enter a period of mentorship and consultation with a mentor, approved by the Registrar, for a period of one year.
4. Pursuant to section 29(1)(a)(ii) of the Act, Ms. Santha shall pay the costs of the investigation and hearing fixed in the amount of \$5,000.00. Such costs shall be paid on or before July 1, 2023. Failing payment, Ms. Santha's license and practicing membership, if any, shall be suspended until payment is made pursuant to section 29(2)(b).
5. Pursuant to section 29(3) of the Act, the Discipline Committee shall send a copy its decision and Order to Brianne Santha and to the complainant.
6. Pursuant to section 17(10) of the SASW *General Bylaws*, a digest of this decision shall be published on the SASW website and in the SASW newsletter.