

**COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**SUMMARY OF DECISION OF INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE “B”**

**Dr. Ronald Matsusaki  
License Number 014550**

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This matter was formally initiated by the filing of a complaint from a former patient of Dr. Matsuaki.

Investigation Committee B, formed in accordance with the *Medical Act* of Nova Scotia, 2011, was responsible for the investigation of the complaint.

In the course of investigating the complaint, the Committee was concerned about potential breaches of the patient’s privacy.

The investigation of this matter overlapped with other matters under investigation by the College. In the course of the investigation of an unrelated matter, the Investigation Committee suspended Dr. Matsusaki’s licence to practice in September, 2019. He has not been practising since, and has agreed not to return to practice in the future.

With respect to the issue of privacy breaches, Dr. Matsuaki acknowledged that he shared details of the complaint with his partner, including the identity of the Complainant. When questioned on this by the Committee, Dr. Matsusaki indicated that he did this as a way to prepare for his interview with the Committee.

The Committee notes that section 46 of the *Medical Act* requires any person who has received information in the course of an investigation is required to maintain the confidentiality of that information. The preservation of the privacy of complaints and the protection of complainants’ identities are central to the College’s ability to investigate matters. It is essential to the integrity of the College’s investigative processes that complainants continue to come forward with information, knowing their information will be protected.

The Committee has determined that a licensing sanction is warranted for this breach of privacy, as the disclosure of the patient’s confidential complaint information to Dr. Matsusaki’s partner to assist him in preparing for an interview with the College, was a blatant breach of the College’s and the patient’s expectation of privacy and confidentiality. Dr. Matsusaki was advised in various communications from the College of the requirement to maintain the confidentiality of information he received as part of the investigative process. His failure to abide by this requirement in these circumstances warrants a reprimand, and Dr. Matsusaki has consented to this reprimand.

Therefore, Dr. Matsusaki is reprimanded for contravening the College’s requirement to maintain the confidentiality of all material gathered in the investigation of a complaint, as set out in section 46 of the *Medical Act*.