

IN THE MATTER OF:

The Registered Nurses Act, R.S.M. 2001, c. R40

AND IN THE MATTER OF:

A hearing into the conduct of Christopher Perrett, CRNM #136503

DECISION



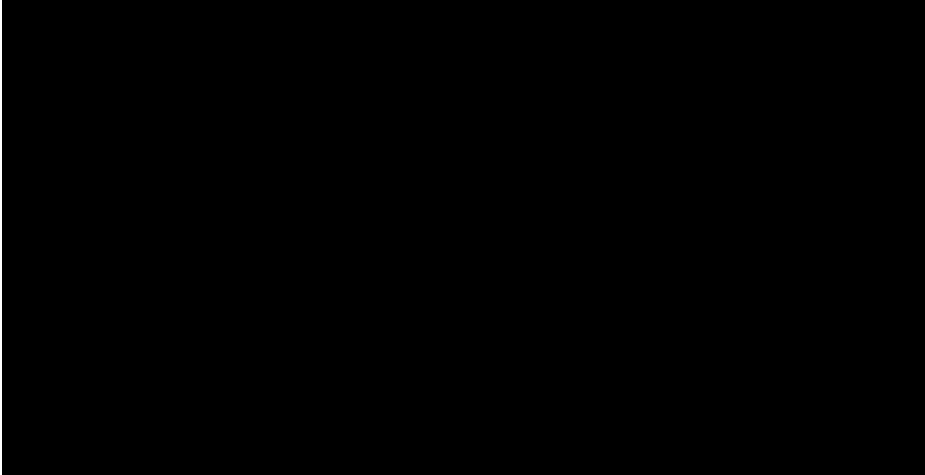
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AND IN THE MATTER OF: **A Hearing into the Conduct of Christopher Perrett, CRNM #136503**

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Introduction

On January 13, 2017, a Panel of the Discipline Committee (the “Panel”) of the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (the “College”) held a hearing into the charges against Christopher Perrett (the “Member”), a member of the College. The hearing continued on August 24, 2017.

At the commencement of the hearing, it was established that the Notice of Hearing had been properly served and the time limits set forth in paragraph 34 of the Act had been met. No objections were raised as to the composition of the Panel and the Panel proceeded to hear the matter.

The Member appeared at the hearing with legal counsel and pleaded guilty to professional misconduct.

The Panel then heard submissions from counsel for the Investigation Committee, as well as counsel for the Member, respecting the background facts giving rise to the matters raised in the Notice of Hearing and the appropriate disposition of the matter.

After hearing submissions of counsel, the Panel adjourned to consider the matter. The following facts are not in dispute:

1. The Member has been a registered nurse in good standing since 1995.
2. Over the past 22 years, the Member has worked in various nursing positions and is currently working in



3. Since 2009, the Member has also operated his own private in-home foot care service.
4. From 2008 to 2015, the Member provided registered nursing care to a patient, [REDACTED]
5. The Member developed a close personal friendship with [REDACTED]
6. During the course of providing registered nursing care, the Member violated professional boundaries in his interactions with [REDACTED], particulars of which include:
 - a. Buying gifts for [REDACTED]
 - b. Accepting gifts from [REDACTED]
 - c. Taking trips with [REDACTED]
 - d. Providing [REDACTED] with private details of his personal life and accepting emotional support from [REDACTED]
 - e. Having frequent contact with [REDACTED] independent of the co-occurring registered nursing care that he provided to [REDACTED]
 - f. Taking [REDACTED] out for birthday lunches
 - g. Permitting [REDACTED] to take him out for birthday lunches
 - h. Driving [REDACTED] to appointments
 - i. Repairing [REDACTED] home and yard
 - j. Failing to refer [REDACTED] to another healthcare professional when required to do so
 - k. Consenting to being a co-executor of [REDACTED] estate
7. As a result of the foregoing, the Member was named a beneficiary in [REDACTED] will.

The Panel is satisfied that the facts submitted constitute professional misconduct, as alleged in the Notice of Hearing and, accordingly, the Member is guilty of professional misconduct, as charged.

After considering the submissions of counsel with respect to discipline, the Panel makes the following Order, attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

The Panel considers the foregoing disposition to be appropriate for the following reasons:

1. The Panel is satisfied that the Member was not attempting to exploit [REDACTED]
2. The gifts were modest.
3. The Member indicated that travel expenses were shared.
4. The home and yard repairs were of a minor nature.
5. The Member reluctantly consented to being a co-executor and was not aware, at that time, he was named as a beneficiary in the will.
6. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this close friendship crossed professional boundaries. A therapeutic relationship between the nurse and the client is central to all nursing practice and is an entry-level

competency for registered nurses in Manitoba. The Member had a professional obligation to set boundaries and to maintain an appropriate therapeutic relationship. Commencing a personal relationship with a client is unacceptable in a therapeutic relationship. This unacceptable relationship was continuous and extended over a number of years. The Member had a professional obligation to refer the patient to alternative care once the relationship changed from professional to personal.

7. The Member has demonstrated insight as to why his conduct was inappropriate. Throughout the complaints investigation process, the Member has been open, forthright and cooperative with the College. The Member has expressed remorse and has taken responsibility for his actions.
8. The Investigation Committee conducted a thorough investigation into the Member's practice as a registered nurse. It was the conclusion of the Investigation Committee, with which this Panel agrees, that the Member does not pose a risk to the public.
9. The Member has no prior record of discipline.
10. In all of these circumstances, the Panel considers the Order to be an appropriate response to the Member's misconduct.

DATED at Winnipeg, Manitoba, the 24th day of August, 2017.

