

Notice to Dentists

Alberta Dental Association and College Hearing Tribunal Decision Summary August 20, 2020

In Accordance with Bylaw 20(7) of the Alberta Dental
Association and College

On August 20, 2020, a Hearing Tribunal of the Alberta Dental Association and College found Dr. Vivek Cheba guilty of unprofessional conduct and he was sanctioned. A Hearing Tribunal is an independent group of decision makers comprised of a member of the public appointed by the Government of Alberta and three dentists registered in Alberta.

Dr. Cheba admitted he was guilty of unprofessional conduct due to his comments and actions towards female staff, and in the presence of a patient, which were inappropriate. Dr. Cheba indicated that the objectional behaviour had taken place during a time when he was suffering from personal matters which he has since sought treatment for.

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY DR. CHEBA

A summary of the unprofessional conduct by Dr. Cheba and accepted by the Hearing Tribunal is as follows:

1. Dr. Cheba made inappropriate gestures and unwelcome comments of a sexually suggestive nature to his female staff on several occasions and in the presence of a patient.

ORDERS OF THE HEARING TRIBUNAL

The Hearing Tribunal accepted Dr. Cheba's admission of unprofessional conduct.

The Hearing Tribunal found that Dr. Cheba's admitted actions damaged the integrity of the dental profession, failed to respect the boundaries of the dentist-patient relationship and constituted very serious unprofessional conduct.

The Hearing Tribunal accepted the Joint Submission on Penalty and issued the following orders against Dr. Cheba:

1. A suspension from practice for 10 months.
2. A fine of \$10,000.
3. An Ethics Course.

4. Employing patient satisfaction and peer surveys (dentists and allied health professionals such as RDAs and RDHs to complete) for a minimum of 24 months and the survey shall be maintained and available for the Complaints Director to review upon request for a period of 30 months from August 20, 2020.
5. Paying costs of the investigation and hearing of \$99,621.41.
6. Refraining from any use of illicit or impairing substances including alcohol, opioids, benzodiazepines, or cannabinoids.
7. Conditions regarding his return to practice.
8. A reprimand.