

Sexual Abuse of Patients by Physicians

A motion adopted at the 1991 OPHA Annual General Meeting

Code: 1991-01 (MT) **Status:** Archived

WHEREAS the repellant phenomenon of sexual abuse of children and adults (the large majority of whom are women) by those in a position of trust and caring has been identified and responded to over the past 5 to 10 years; and

WHEREAS The relationship between physician and patient is based on a trust which should in no way be violated by the inherent position of power of physician over patient,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the violation of that trust through physician sexual abuse of patient will not be tolerated under any circumstance and that the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) advocates to the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the immediate removal of physicians found guilty of sexual abuse from contact with patients.

Regarding resolutions, position papers and motions:

Status: Policy statements (resolutions, position papers and motions) are categorized as:

ACTIVE, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have not yet been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is currently relevant to public health in Ontario.

ARCHIVED, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is not currently relevant to public health in Ontario or is not based upon the most current evidence. The statement remains the position of the OPHA until a new statement is adopted that effectively reverses or essentially negates all or major elements of an earlier statement. In this instance, the former supersedes the latter

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