

## The College Sexual Abuse Policy

*The College does not tolerate any form of sexual abuse and will respond to all questions and complaints from the public.*

If you have questions, or think you have been sexually abused by an occupational therapist, you can report it to the College.

You can report sexual abuse to the College directly or you can ask someone to report on your behalf. If you choose to report this behaviour to a regulated health care professional they are required by law to report it to the College.

The College requires your name and the name of the occupational therapist in order to formally investigate your concerns. The College will try to protect your privacy and keep your information confidential as much as possible during this process.

The College may provide funding for therapy and counselling if you have been sexually abused by an occupational therapist.

## Sexual Abuse

# What the Public Needs to Know



College of Occupational  
Therapists of Ontario

### To Report Sexual Abuse Contact:

The Registrar

College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario



20 Bay Street, Suite 900  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2N8  
Telephone: 416-214-1177  
Toll free: 1-800-890-6570  
Facsimile: 416-214-0586  
E-mail address: [investigations@coto.org](mailto:investigations@coto.org)  
[www.coto.org](http://www.coto.org)

*Occupational therapists (OTs) are Regulated Health Care Professionals. They help people who have problems doing the things that are important to them.*

These problems may be the result of an accident, disability, disease, emotional or developmental problem or the normal aging process. Occupational therapists help teach the jobs of daily living as they relate to personal care, paid and unpaid work, or leisure activities.

OTs commonly work in hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities and agencies, mental health facilities and agencies, private homes, health care offices, and employment evaluation and training centres.

For more information about occupational therapy go to [www.otworks.ca](http://www.otworks.ca)

Anyone calling themselves an occupational therapist in Ontario must be registered with the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario.

The College is committed to preventing sexual abuse of a patient/client by an occupational therapist by creating standards and guidelines of conduct and enforcing these.

### **What is Sexual Abuse?**

Ontario's *Regulated Health Professions Act* defines sexual abuse of a patient as:

- sexual intercourse or other forms of physical sexual relations between the patient and the therapist;
- touching, of a sexual nature, of the patient by the therapist;
- behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature by the therapist towards their patient;

"Sexual nature" does not include touching, behaviour or remarks which are necessary in order for the therapist to do their work with a patient.

If you are unsure about the treatment you received, contact the College.

### **You Have the Right to:**

- say "No" or "Stop" at any time;
- understand the treatment or service you will receive from your therapist before it starts;
- stop the therapist and ask questions if you do not understand what is happening during treatment, why it is happening, or if you are not comfortable;
- have a third person present with you when you are being assessed or treated.

**Contact the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario if you think you have been sexually abused.**