



# Mandatory Reporting of Client Sexual Abuse by Health Professionals

**The RHPA Defines Sexual Abuse as:**

- Sexual intercourse or other forms of physical sexual relations between the registrant and the client;
- Touching of a sexual nature, of the client by a registrant; or
- Behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature by the registrant towards the client. The term "sexual nature" does not include touching, behaviour or remarks of a clinical nature appropriate to the service provided.

Do you believe that a client has been the victim of sexual abuse by another professional, as defined in the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)?

YES

NO

Do you have the name of the professional that conducted the alleged abuse?

NO

YES

Continue to monitor the situation with your client if you have ongoing concerns.

You cannot file a mandatory report. Encourage the client to provide the name, or to file a report themselves if sexual abuse has occurred. provide the name, or to file a report themselves if sexual abuse has occurred.

Is the alleged abuser a member of a regulatory college?

YES

NO

A mandatory report does not apply. Provide your client with alternatives, such as filing a report with the abuser's employer or the police.

Do you consider the alleged abuser to be an imminent risk to other clients or the public?

YES

NO

You are required to file the report as soon as possible.

You have 30 days to file the report.

Have you discussed with your client the seriousness of the allegations and your requirement to file a report?

YES

NO

Have this discussion with them, time permitting.

Have you discussed with your client the supports and resources they have available to them to help them navigate the situation?

YES

NO

Have you contacted the regulatory college to ask about the reporting process, and to understand the available funding for victims of sexual abuse by a member?

NO

YES

Proceed to get this information.

Provide the sexual abuse funding information to the client.

Does your client give you consent to disclose their name in the reporting process?

YES

NO

Determine if you or the client is filing the report.

File the report without disclosing the client's information.

If the client files, confirm this is done in 30 days (if not urgent). If you file, notify your client this has been completed. Provide ongoing support to them as appropriate and document all steps in your clinical notes and records.