

# ATTENDING A CPSA HEARING

## What you need to know



A hearing occurs when a complaint investigation reveals a physician has demonstrated a lack of knowledge, skill or judgment in the provision of medical care, or has seriously breached a CPSA Standard of Practice and/or Code of Ethics.

A hearing tribunal, consisting of two physician members and one public member, considers evidence and determines whether or not the physician is guilty of unprofessional conduct. The tribunal also determines penalty as specified in the *Health Professions Act*; this can include:

- Restrictions on the physician's practice (such as the need for a chaperone or limiting the number of patients seen);
- Suspension or loss of the physician's practice permit (while suspended, a physician cannot treat patients, or bill for medical services.);
- A monetary fine; and/or
- The need to undertake additional training or practice assessments.

## HEARING PROTOCOL

- ✓ Check in with the College's receptionist when you arrive.
- ✓ Please do not bring any food into the hearing room.
- ✓ Sit only in the designated observer seating area.
- ✓ Please remain quiet throughout the proceedings and never address the hearing tribunal.
- ✓ Cameras, recording devices or cell phones are not allowed in the hearing room.
- ✓ If you need to leave the room during the proceedings, you will not be able to re-enter until there is a break.
- ✓ When the hearing tribunal adjourns to deliberate, you will have to leave the hearing room.

## PRE-REGISTRATION

Under the *Health Professions Act*, a hearing is open to the public. If you wish to attend a hearing, please pre-register by contacting Adele Gendron at 780-969-5015 or by email at [Adele.Gendron@cpsa.ab.ca](mailto:Adele.Gendron@cpsa.ab.ca).

Hearings take place at the College office in Edmonton and space is reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

### GOING IN-CAMERA

A hearing may be closed to the public as per Section 78 of the *Health Professions Act*. The decision to close a portion or all of the hearing can be made at the last minute, and all public attendees will be asked to leave. If we become aware of an application to close the proceedings to the public, we make every effort to notify registered attendees in advance.

## HEARING DECISIONS

The hearing tribunal does not always make its final decision on orders and sanctions on the hearing day, and some hearings may extend beyond one day. Once a decision is made, the Order of Tribunal is posted on the CPSA website at [cpsa.ca](http://cpsa.ca). All decisions are subject to a 30-day appeal period.

## ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) regulates the practice of medicine in Alberta. The privilege of profession-led regulation is granted through Alberta's *Health Professions Act* (HPA).

Our Vision: The highest quality medical care for Albertans through regulatory excellence

Our Mission: To protect the public and ensure trust by guiding the medical profession

**For more information about the College, visit [cpsa.ca](http://cpsa.ca)**



College of  
Physicians  
& Surgeons  
of Alberta

*Good medical practice - it's what we're all about*

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