



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION – December 10, 2021

Dr. COPEN, John Victor William

Victoria, BC

1. **Nature of action:** The Inquiry Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College) conducted an investigation into the conduct of Dr. John Victor William Copen, pursuant to section 33(1) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c.183.

The Inquiry Committee and Dr. J. Copen have agreed to resolve all matters arising from the investigation by way of a Consent Agreement under section 37.1(3)(a) of the *Health Professions Act*.

2. **Effective date:** December 2, 2021
3. **Name of registrant:** Dr. John Victor William Copen
4. **Location of practice:** Victoria, BC
5. **Admission and acknowledgements:** Dr. J. Copen has admitted and/or acknowledged the following:
 - a. That he breached his professional obligations as a physician to act in the best interest of his patients when he hired patients to work in his clinic and in private businesses unrelated to his clinical practice, as well as when he offered to prescribe medication to an employee.
6. **Disposition:** Following the authorization of a disciplinary citation pursuant to section 37 of the *Health Professions Act*, Dr. J. Copen entered into a Consent Agreement with the Inquiry Committee of the College, wherein he has consented to the following terms, pursuant to section 39(2) of the *Health Professions Act*:
 - a. Transfer from the Full – Specialty class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration;
 - b. A formal reprimand;
 - c. A suspension from the practice of medicine for two months;
 - d. Completion of a multi-disciplinary assessment program;
 - e. Participation in continuing medical education and professional development in the areas of ethics and professionalism; and
 - f. Undertakings not to hire patients to work at his clinic or for his private businesses, and not to offer to prescribe medication to employees.

- 7. Rationale:** The Inquiry Committee was critical of the registrant's conduct, and his blatant disregard for his fiduciary obligation to act in the best interest of his patients, especially considering their increased vulnerability as psychiatric patients. The committee noted the conduct was contrary to College standards and determined a disciplinary outcome was appropriate.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia is the licensing and regulatory body for all physicians and surgeons in the province. Governed by provincial legislation, the College's role is to protect the public by establishing, monitoring and enforcing high standards of qualification and ethical practice.

Inquiries:

Communications and Public Affairs

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