

Discipline Case Digest



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY
Professional Accountability

File: 005-01

Allegation:

A complaint was submitted against a College member alleging violation of the College Code of Ethics in two areas – (i) a Professional Biologist will take reasonable precautions not to injure the professional reputation of another person through malice or negligence and (ii) where the Professional Biologist becomes aware of a contravention by a member of the Code of Ethics, s/he will report it to the College. The complainant requested that (i) the College enforce standards of conduct and advise the subject member to cease and desist from future slander, and provide a public apology to them, their family and their staff, and (ii) that the College compel the subject member to disclose the names of others who were making similar statements. The complaint alleged that the subject member made statements to third parties about the work of the complainant that could have had a significant impact on their reputation and consequent ability to earn an income.

Member Action:

The subject member disputed the exact wording of the alleged statements – however, regretted the impressions and innuendo that may have been interpreted from conversations about the complainant. A Conditional Admission was submitted with an apology for the use of emotional and inappropriate language to the complainant and the College.

Decision:

The Discipline Committee accepted the Conditional Admission received from the subject member and directed that a letter of reprimand be placed on the subject member's file for a period of 2 years and the decision published in the College newsletter.

Postscript:

Members should be aware that statements made to third parties about the work done by another can have significant impact on that person's reputation and consequent ability to earn an income. Members are also reminded that they are responsible for their practice and conduct both in their professional and personal lives. A member must not in private life, in extra-professional

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activities or in professional practice, engage in dishonourable or questionable conduct that casts doubt on the member's integrity, his or her good character and reputation, or that which may bring the College or its members in disrepute.