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**May 8, 2020**

## **Dr. John Slanina found guilty of unprofessional conduct**

**Edmonton, AB** – Sherwood Park General Practitioner Dr. John Slanina appeared before a CPSA hearing tribunal on Feb. 10, 2020, on charges of unprofessional conduct.

Throughout 2015 and 2016, Dr. Slanina began providing medical care to a woman with whom he was in a personal relationship. It was alleged Dr. Slanina did not create clinical records for the care he was providing, failed to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and did not disclose this relationship to CPSA. After their personal relationship ended and his former partner complained about his conduct to CPSA, Dr. Slanina filed a defamation lawsuit against her (since withdrawn), which he claimed was on the advice of a lawyer.

The hearing tribunal determined that while physicians can provide care to family members in emergency situations, Dr. Slanina issued several prescriptions and ordered a number of tests (for which he received the results as the referring physician) for his then-partner, establishing a physician-patient relationship. Having a personal relationship with a patient, regardless of when the personal relationship began, is inappropriate. Furthermore, patients who complain about healthcare professionals to their regulators should not face the threat of being sued by the physician.

The hearing tribunal subsequently found Dr. Slanina guilty of unprofessional conduct. Submissions on sanction are to be heard at a later date, still to be determined. In the meantime, Dr. Slanina's practice permit remains active. *An Act to Protect Patients* does not apply to this case since the complaint predates that legislation.

### **Resources:**

[CPSA hearing tribunal decision](#)

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*The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is the regulator for all physicians and surgeons in the province and is governed by the Health Professions Act. Our role is to protect the public by issuing practice permits to those who meet educational and training criteria, hold Alberta physicians to ethical and medical practice standards, and investigate and resolve physician-related complaints. CPSA also ensures the safety and quality of medical and diagnostic testing services in Alberta through an independent accreditation program.*

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