

ONTARIO CHIROPODISTS AND PODIATRISTS DISCIPLINE TRIBUNAL

B E T W E E N:

COLLEGE OF CHIROPODISTS OF ONTARIO

(the “**College**”)

-and-

LORI LEHTIMAKI

(the “**Registrant**”)

NOTICE OF HEARING

On September 25, 2026, a panel of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee of the College referred specified allegations of the Registrant’s professional misconduct to the Tribunal.

In this proceeding, the term “Registrant” means a “member” as set out in the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, the *Health Professions Procedural Code* (“Code”), the applicable health profession Act, and the regulations thereto.

The allegation(s) are that the Registrant:

1. Has committed an act of professional misconduct under:
 - a. Subsection 51(1)(c) of the Code, which is Schedule 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, and as defined in one or more of the following paragraphs of section 1 of the *Professional Misconduct Regulation* (O. Reg. 750/93) under the *Chiropody Act, 1991*:

- (i) paragraph 2 – failing to meet or contravening a standard of practice of the profession) and, in particular, the College’s written standards pertaining to:
 - a. Code of Ethics;
 - b. Assessment and Management;
 - c. Patient Relations;
 - d. Records; and/or
 - e. Prescription Custom Foot Orthoses.
- (ii) paragraph 4 – delegating or accepting the delegation of a controlled act contrary to the Act or the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* or the regulations under either of those Acts.
- (iii) paragraph 9 – discontinuing professional services contrary to the terms of an agreement between the member and a hospital, nursing home or other facility or agency that provides health services to the public.
- (iv) paragraph 17 – failing to keep records as required by the regulations;
- (v) paragraph 20 – signing or issuing, in the member’s professional capacity, a document that contains a false or misleading statement.
- (vi) paragraph 30 – contravening the *Chiropody Act, 1991*, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, and/or the regulations under either of

those Acts, including, but not limited to, Ontario Regulation 203/94, Part II (Advertising) and III (Records); and/or

- (vii) paragraph 33 – engaging in conduct or performing an act, in the course of practising the profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable, or unprofessional.

Further information about these allegations is set out below:

1. The Registrant was first registered with the College on November 20, 2007. At all times material to the allegations, from 2025 to 2026, the Registrant was registered with the College in the chiropodist classification to practise chiropody in Ontario.
2. During the relevant period the Registrant practised at Sault Foot Clinic (the “**Clinic**”) in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.
3. During the relevant period, pursuant to an agreement signed by the Registrant on August 25, 2025, the Clinic was a clinical practice site for students from the Michener Institute of Education at University Health Network (the “**Michener**”).
4. On or about April 17, 2026, the College commenced an investigation with respect to certain unprofessional practises by the Registrant occurring at the Clinic. Among other conduct, it had been reported that the Registrant was permitting a chiropody student (Student A) to assess and/or treat patients without proper supervision, failing to maintain proper records, and engaging in inappropriate business practices with respect to billing.

A. Failure to Supervise

5. Student A was a Michener chiropody student.

6. In addition to being an employee at the Clinic from approximately 2022 onward, Student A was placed at the Clinic, under the Registrant's supervision, for the clinical components required to complete her chiropody program at the Michener.
7. Student A was scheduled at the Clinic for two blocks of clinical education. The placements took place from January 5 to February 27, 2026, and March 2 to April 16, 2026.
8. Contrary to her professional obligations, the Registrant failed to properly supervise Student A. For almost three weeks during which Student A was at the Clinic, seeing patients, and required to be supervised by the Registrant for the chiropody program, the Registrant was absent from the Clinic.
9. During the period from approximately February 23 to March 6, 2026, the Registrant was on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. From March 7 to 13, 2026, the Registrant was in St. Maarten.
10. During the period that the Registrant was absent from the Clinic, Student A was performing procedures and providing chiropody services (including not limited to controlled acts) unsupervised, unauthorized, and/or in a manner contrary to the regulation and standards.
11. When the concern about the Registrant's presence at the Clinic was initially raised, the Registrant was not candid and did not disclose her absence from the Clinic.

B. Inappropriate Record-Keeping and Billing Practices

12. At no time did the Registrant advise the Michener that she unavailable to supervise Student A during her clinical placement.
13. To the contrary, the Registrant and/or Student A submitted records to the Michener that contained false or misleading information about the Registrant's supervision and/or did not disclose the Registrant's absence from the Clinic.

14. The Registrant also completed and/or approved patient records for patients seen by Student A in a manner that contained false or misleading information and/or failed to disclose that Student A was providing chiropody services while Student A was unsupervised, not authorized and/or the Registrant was not present in the Clinic.
15. In addition, the Registrant failed to maintain patient records at the Clinic in a manner that ensured records were secure, accurate, complete, and transparent about the provision of chiropody care as required by the regulations and standards.
16. The Registrant also engaged in inappropriate billing practices insofar she advertised and offered discounts to patients for cash payments (referred to as the “Happy Feet Patients”), and/or charged fees to patients in manner that lack consistency, was not transparent and/or failed to record fees or payments contrary to the regulations and standards.
17. Further information and disclosure about the allegations against the Registrant will be provided in advance of the hearing.

The Tribunal will hold a hearing under sections 38 to 56 of the Code, the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act*, and the *Hearings in Tribunal Proceedings (Temporary Measures) Act, 2020*, on a date or dates to be set at a case management conference, to decide whether the Registrant has committed an act or acts of professional misconduct and/or is incompetent.

The College will file this Notice with the Tribunal. The Tribunal will then set a date for the first case management conference and send it to the parties with more information about the Tribunal's process.

If the Registrant or their representative does not attend the case management conference or the hearing, the Tribunal may proceed in the Registrant's absence and the Registrant is not entitled to any further notice in the proceeding.

If the Tribunal finds the Registrant committed an act or acts of professional misconduct, it may make one or more of the following orders under subsections 51(2) of the Code.

- direct the Registrar to revoke the Registrant's certificate of registration.
- direct the Registrar to suspend the Registrant's certificate of registration for a specified period of time.
- direct the Registrar to impose specified terms, conditions and limitations on the Registrant's certificate of registration for a specified or indefinite period of time.
- require the Registrant to appear before the Tribunal to be reprimanded.
- require the Registrant to pay a fine of not more than \$35,000 to the Minister of Finance.
- if the act of professional misconduct was the sexual abuse of a patient, require the Registrant to reimburse the College for funding provided for that patient under the program and/or require the Registrant to post security acceptable to the College to guarantee this payment.

The Tribunal may, under subsection 53.1 of the Code, require the Registrant to pay all or part of the College's costs and expenses. The Tribunal's website includes the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure, Practice Directions and guides to the process.

Date: September 25, 2026

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On behalf of the College:

Nicole Zwiers, Registrar and CEO

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TO: LORI LEHTIMAKI

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- and - **LORI LEHTIMAKI**
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