



## SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR DR KONG SIM GUAN

1. A Disciplinary Committee ("**DC**") of the Singapore Medical Council ("**SMC**") held a disciplinary inquiry ("**Inquiry**") for Dr Kong Sim Guan @ Sim Heng Guan ("**Dr Kong**"), age 63, a registered medical practitioner specialising as a psychiatrist. At all material times, Dr Kong practised at The Psychiatric & Behavioural Medicine Clinic (Ang & Kong), located at 3 Mount Elizabeth Road, #15-08 Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre, Singapore 225810. The proceedings arose out of a complaint to the SMC dated 23 March 2010.
2. Dr Kong faced one charge of professional misconduct under the section 45(1)(d) of the Medical Registration Act (Cap 174) for having a long term sexual relationship with a patient ("**the Patient**") whilst she was under his care.
3. The fact that Dr Kong had a sexual relationship with the Patient for at least 10 years between 1997 to about 2008 was never denied. Dr Kong contested the charge on the basis that the sexual relationship only commenced after the doctor-patient relationship had ended.
4. After a hearing stretching over 6 days and with 5 witnesses, the DC found that Dr Kong was guilty of professional misconduct. He was found to be involved in a sexual relationship with the Patient whilst she was his patient and the affair continued for around 12 years.
5. All this time, Dr Kong was her treating doctor and this was supported by the incontrovertible documentary evidence where Dr Kong provided medical advice, prescriptions, admission notes, medical certificates and medical reports to and for the benefit of the Patient.

6. Dr Kong also contended that he was treating a family member (as Dr Kong had attempted to liken a mistress with a wife) or a close friend and therefore did no wrong. The DC disregarded this and found, *inter alia*, that:-
  - a. regardless of whether one treats a family member, a close friend or a complete stranger, the fact remains that the doctor is providing treatment as a doctor;
  - b. even if there is some exception that allows a doctor to treat a close family member or close friend, this cannot condone improper association with a patient; and
  - c. the Complainant (i.e. the Patient) started out as his patient seeking psychiatric help and the DC considered her to be a vulnerable patient.
7. The DC found that at the material time, the Patient was clearly a troubled patient with marital issues. As her psychiatrist, Dr Kong should have been more than aware that his sexual relationship with her can only be interpreted as taking advantage of her troubled state and vulnerability, let alone exacerbating and complicating her marital problems.
8. The DC also stated that in the general scope of misconduct, the misconduct of having sexual relationship with a patient is particularly grave and brings disrepute to the medical profession.
9. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the DC ordered that Dr Kong:
  - a. be suspended from practice for a period of **3 years**;
  - b. be fined a sum of **\$10,000**; and
  - c. bear the costs and expenses of and incidental to the Inquiry, including the costs of the solicitors of the SMC and the Legal Assessor.
10. The DC also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
11. Dr Kong's 3-year suspension took effect on 24 June 2012.

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