



23 May 2019

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR MR LUKE MANIMARAN DEGARAJOO**

1. A Disciplinary Tribunal (“**DT**”) inquiry was held for Mr Luke Manimaran Degarajoo (“Mr Degarajoo”) on 6 and 26 March 2019 (the “**Inquiry**”).
2. At the material time, Mr Degarajoo was a registered allied health professional and was practising as the principal rehabilitation therapist at The Rehab Physio Practice at 402 Orchard Road, Singapore 238876 (the “**Clinic**”).
3. The proceedings arose from information that the Allied Health Professions Council (the “**Council**”) received, informing them that Mr Degarajoo had been charged and convicted in the State Courts of the Republic of Singapore (the “**State Courts**”) of one charge of using criminal force with intent to outrage the modesty of an 18-year-old female (the “**Victim**”) under Section 354(1) of the Penal Code (Cap. 68) (the “**Charge**”) on 21 March 2018. He was sentenced to eleven months’ imprisonment and three strokes of the cane.
4. The conduct that resulted in the Charge took place when the Victim underwent physiotherapy treatment by Mr Degarajoo at the Clinic on 25 March 2017. During the physiotherapy session, he asked the Victim to remove her clothes and molested her twice. Mr Degarajoo admitted that he did so with the intent to outrage the Victim’s modesty, and he knew that this was not part of the treatment. When questioned by the Victim’s friend as to whether customers had to be naked (as the Victim was), Mr Degarajoo replied that the Victim needed a deep massage for her injury.
5. The Council proceeded on one charge against Mr Degarajoo, for being charged and convicted of an offence that implied a defect in his character that made him unfit for his profession under section 53(1)(b) of the Allied Health Professions Act (Cap. 6B) (the “**AHP Act**”). Mr Degarajoo pleaded guilty to the charge and acknowledged that he had committed the offence of which he had been convicted. Accordingly, the DT found Mr Degarajoo guilty of the charge.
6. In summary, the DT took the view that: -
  - (a) This is the first time a registered physiotherapist had committed the acts of molestation in the course of his professional duties which is an aggravating factor.
  - (b) Misconduct involving the molestation of patient by physiotherapists, whose work entails extensive physical contact with patients, will result in the erosion of public confidence in the profession.
  - (c) When deciding on sentencing in disciplinary cases involving misconduct, the interest of the public is paramount.

7. In the circumstances, the DT ordered that pursuant to section 53(2) of the AHP Act: -
  - (a) Mr Degarajoo's registration in the Register of Allied Health Professionals with Full Registration (the "**Register**") be removed; and
  - (b) Mr Degarajoo pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to these disciplinary proceedings, including the costs of the solicitor to the Council.
8. The DT also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published, so that the effect of general deterrence can be achieved.
9. The removal of Mr Degarajoo's registration from the Register took effect on 30 April 2019.

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