

DISCIPLINE CASE SUMMARY

August 2014; Larocque PCC FILE 2014.3 - Breach of Privacy/ Confidentiality - "professional misconduct"

Donna LaRocque broke patient confidentiality when she conveyed to a patient, who was enquiring about how to obtain medical marijuana, that another patient might be able to help, as that other patient was already a medical marijuana user. This involved conveying information about one patient's medical condition to someone who had no entitlement to that information. The employer had investigated, disciplined her and reported the matter to SCPT as a complaint.

Ms. LaRocque acknowledged that the communication of such information was inappropriate and a breach of patient confidentiality, but she had done so spontaneously, through a momentary lack of judgment, and had realized her error as soon as she had spoken. She took full responsibility for her actions and acknowledged that a breach of patient confidentiality is professional misconduct.

The complainant/employer consented to an agreement that would permit the matter to be resolved without a formal hearing. Ms. Larocque entered into an agreement pursuant to which she accepted a formal reprimand and agreed to provide a letter of apology to the affected patient.