

Record Of Inquiry Decision

In the matter of: Susan Miazga, #5056

Complaint Number: 23-07

And

In the matter of: *The Social Work Profession Act, C.C.S.M. c. S169*

Hearing date(s): May 14, June 20, July 23-24, and December 6, 2024

Complaint

On February 13, 2023, the Manitoba College of Social Workers (MCSW) received a complaint against Registered Social Worker (RSW) Susan Miazga in accordance with Part 7 of *The Social Work Profession Act (SWPA)*.

Specifically, concerns were raised about the messages the RSW posted on her social media platform. The Complainant alleged the RSW named specific healthcare staff, and these posts included false and misleading statements about the staff and the healthcare facility. In her posts the RSW identified herself as a Social Worker on multiple occasions, leading the public to reasonably believe she was acting in a professional capacity.

After investigation, the College's Complaints Committee attempted to enter into a voluntary agreement with the RSW for remedial training and supervision as outlined in Section 31(1)(f) of the SWPA. The RSW declined the agreement. Therefore, the Committee referred the matter to the Inquiry Panel as outlined in Section 31(1)(b) of the SWPA.

Findings of Inquiry Panel

On January 27, 2025, following disciplinary hearings and in accordance with Section 51 of the SWPA, the Inquiry Panel concluded that the RSW was guilty of professional misconduct and had breached the MCSW's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics. The Panel concluded that the RSW:

1. Failed to distinguish between actions and statements made as a private citizen and actions and statements made as a Social Worker
 - *MCSW Code of Ethics (2005) Guideline 7 - Ethical Responsibilities to the Profession - clause 7.1.8*
2. Failed to ensure that outside interests and actions did not bring the profession into disrepute
 - *Code of Ethics Guideline 7 - Ethical Responsibilities to the Profession - clause 7.1.8*
 - *Code of Ethics Value 4: Integrity in Professional Practice*

Orders of the Panel

Following a determination that the RSW was guilty of professional misconduct, the Inquiry Panel made the following Orders, and these conditions were placed on the RSW's entitlement to practice as a social worker in Manitoba including:

1. The RSW be reprimanded.
2. The RSW complete College approved remedial training.
3. The RSW be subject to supervision by a Registered Social Worker for a minimum of one year.

As per Section 53(1) of the *SWPA*, the Panel ordered the RSW to pay to the College the sum of \$30, 000 to recover a portion of the costs of the investigation and proceedings related to the complaint.
