

What is a Hearing?

A matter is directed to a Hearing when a complaint investigation reveals a serious breach of a CPSA Standard of Practice and/or unethical behavior by a physician.

Hearings are relatively rare, with less than two per cent (less than 10 per year) of all complaints resulting in a Hearing.

At the Hearing, a Hearing Tribunal considers evidence and determines whether or not the physician is guilty of unprofessional conduct. The Tribunal also determines penalty as specified in the *Act*; this can include:

- restrictions on the physician's practice (such as the need for a chaperone or limiting the number of patients seen);
- a suspension or loss of the physician's practice permit; and/or
- a monetary fine.

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Who sits on the Hearing Tribunal?

A Hearing Tribunal is composed of:

- two physician members and
- one public member.

Members of the Hearing Tribunal are not current College Councillors.

College Council is the governing body of the College and comprised of physicians, public members and representatives from Alberta's medical schools.

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Register for a Hearing

Under the *Health Professions Act*, a Hearing is open to the public,* and the College publishes all upcoming Hearing dates on the CPSA website at www.cpsa.ab.ca.

If you wish to attend a Hearing, you must pre-register with the College by contacting Adele Gendron at 780-969-5015 or by email at Adele.Gendron@cpsa.ab.ca.

Hearings take place at the College office in Edmonton, and space is reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

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* Important Information:

Some or all of the Hearing may be closed to the public. The decision to close a portion or all of the Hearing may be made at the last minute, and those who had registered to attend will be asked to leave.

The Hearing Tribunal does not always make determination on all allegations on the day of the Hearing, and Hearings may extend beyond one day.

Hearing Guidelines

- Please check in with the College receptionist when you arrive.
- Food or drinks are not permitted in the Hearing room.
- Public observers must sit in designated seating.
- Public observers are not permitted to address the Hearing Tribunal and must remain quiet throughout the proceedings.
- No cameras, recording devices or cell phones are allowed in the Hearing room.
- If you attend a Hearing and need to leave the room during the proceedings, you will not be allowed back into the room until there is a break.
- When the Hearing Tribunal adjourns to deliberate, everyone must leave the room, except the Hearing Tribunal members and their legal counsel.

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Once the Hearing Tribunal makes its decision, there is a 30-day appeal period.

If there is no appeal, the Hearing Tribunal's decision is posted on the CPSA website.

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To register for a Hearing, please contact:

Adele Gendron
780-969-5015 or 1-800-561-3899 Ext: 5015
Adele.Gendron@cpsa.ab.ca

Attending a CPSA Hearing

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About the College

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) has an important job – we make sure Albertans can depend on their doctors.

We investigate and resolve complaints

The College is responsible for investigating and resolving physician-related complaints. We favor an education or training approach, but apply discipline if necessary.

A matter is directed to a Hearing when a complaint investigation reveals a serious breach of a CPSA Standard of Practice and/or unethical behavior by a physician.

Our Vision:

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is dedicated to the provision of quality health services by competent and caring practitioners. Our integrity is demonstrated by ethical conduct, fairness and accountability. Through leadership, innovation, and cooperation with other health care organizations we serve the public and guide the medical profession.

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