

Consent Reprimands

NICHOLLS, Ethan

Halifax, Nova Scotia

CPNS Registration Number: 13093

On November 23, 2021, the Investigation Committee of the College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia (CPNS) ordered, pursuant to section 67(6)(a)(i) of the *Paramedics Regulations*, and with the consent of Mr. Nicholls, that he receive reprimands for: inappropriately altering information in a patient record; and, inappropriate communication, including making demeaning comments about colleagues.

It was alleged that following a disagreement with another paramedic regarding the appropriate treatment of a patient on scene, Mr. Nicholls surreptitiously removed and/or altered comments made by the other paramedic in the patient's clinical record. It was further alleged that in the course of discussing this matter with both his employer and CPNS, Mr. Nicholls made comments which were demeaning towards certain colleagues, and he acknowledged having a bias against those paramedics. Mr. Nicholls acknowledged that he unilaterally altered comments made by another paramedic in a patient's clinical record. He further admitting making some of the comments in question, although he suggested that they were not made with malicious intent. Based on the information provided by witnesses and the available documentation, the Committee was satisfied that Mr. Nicholls breached the *Standards* and the *Code of Ethics* related to, *inter alia*, integrity, professionalism, documentation, and communication.

The Committee determined that under these circumstances, Mr. Nicholls' breaches of the *Code of Ethics* and *Standards of Practice* were unprofessional and dishonourable, and that pursuant to s. 67(4)(g) of the *Regulations*, there is sufficient evidence that, if proven, would constitute professional misconduct. The Committee therefore determined that the reprimands were the appropriate outcome in this situation.

On February 2, 2022, Mr. Nicholls consented to the reprimands.