

## College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia

### Consent Reprimands

MATTHEWS, Ryan

Halifax, Nova Scotia

CPNS Registration Number: 32554

On October 6, 2022, 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. Matthews, that he receive reprimands for: failing to effectively communicate with a colleague, patient and family members; and failing to provide appropriate assessment, intervention, extrication and/or treatment.

Mr. Matthews and his partner attended a call for a post-fall assessment of an elderly patient. It was documented that the patient was experiencing pain and was reluctant to walk due to a fear of falling. It was alleged that during extrication, the patient was required to walk (assisted) to the stretcher. It was later reported that the patient had suffered a fracture. Mr. Matthews was the primary crew member and developed the extrication plan. Mr. Matthews acknowledged that he failed to take all of the patient's risk factors into account when making the plan, and that ultimately it was unsafe. The Committee also noted that Mr. Matthews failed to communicate with his partner in order to effectively collaborate on a safe plan and failed to effectively communicate with the patient and their family members in order to fully understand their condition at the time.

Based on the available information, the Committee was satisfied that Mr. Matthews breached the *Code of Ethics* and the *Standards of Practice* related to, *inter alia*, advocating in the best interests of the patient, consulting with others for the benefit of the patient, and continuously evaluating the ongoing management of patient care.

The Committee determined that under these circumstances, Mr. Matthews' breach of the *Code of Ethics* and *Standards of Practice* was unprofessional, 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 reprimands were the appropriate outcome in this situation.

On November 18, 2022, Mr. Matthews consented to the reprimands.