

THE LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE *LEGAL PROFESSION ACT*, SBC 1998, C. 9

AND

JASON EDWARD HARP

(a member of the Law Society of British Columbia)

RULE 3-7.1 CONSENT AGREEMENT SUMMARY

1. On June 9, 2025, the Chair of the Discipline Committee approved a consent agreement proposal submitted by Jason Edward Harp (the “Lawyer”) under Rule 3-7.1 of the Law Society Rules (“Rules”).
2. Under the proposal, the Lawyer admits that on December 15, 2024, he assaulted the Complainant and on March 12, 2025, he was found guilty of assault, contrary to s. 266 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, for which he received a one-year conditional discharge.
3. The Lawyer further admits that the conduct set out above constitutes conduct unbecoming the profession.
4. Under the proposal, the Lawyer agreed to be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one month if and when the Lawyer returns to practicing status.
5. While the Lawyer’s actions in the circumstances of this matter would have normally resulted in a fine, the Chair of the Discipline Committee has agreed to disciplinary action of a suspension in order to accommodate the Lawyer.
6. In making its decision, the Chair of the Discipline Committee considered an Agreed Statement of Facts dated May 22, 2025, and a letter to the Chair of the Discipline Committee.
7. This consent agreement will now form part of the Lawyer’s professional conduct record.

8. Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(5) of the Rules, and subject to Rule 3-7.2 of the Rules, the Law Society is bound by an effective consent agreement, and no further action may be taken on the complaint that gave rise to the agreement.
9. The admitted facts set out in the Agreed Statement of Facts are summarized below.

Summary of Facts

Member Background

10. The Lawyer was called to the bar and admitted as a member of the Law Society of British Columbia on September 10, 2018.
11. The Lawyer practiced primarily in the areas of plaintiff personal injury and general civil litigation at a law firm in Surrey, British Columbia.
12. The Lawyer became a non-practising member on March 31, 2020.
13. The Lawyer returned to practising status with the Law Society from June 12, 2024 to March 17, 2025, during which he was not employed. The Lawyer became a non-practising member again on March 17, 2025.
14. The Lawyer has no prior disciplinary history in British Columbia, or any other jurisdiction.

Background Facts

15. The Lawyer resides in a multi-unit building with an underground parking garage.
16. The Complainant, who was 80 years old at the relevant time, also resides in the building.
17. On December 15, 2024, the Lawyer entered the parking garage of the building from an interior door.
18. As the Lawyer entered the parking garage, the Complainant drove toward the Lawyer in a vintage Corvette sports vehicle. The Complainant was accompanied by his son-in-law, who sat in the passenger seat.
19. The Lawyer and the Complainant were not previously known to each other.
20. The Lawyer opined that the Complainant was driving at an excessively high speed.
21. The Complainant's vehicle stopped at a stop sign near the Lawyer.

22. At the stop sign, the Lawyer approached the Complainant's driver side window to express his opinion that the Complainant was driving too fast. The Lawyer was not satisfied with the Complainant's response.
23. The Lawyer sat on the hood of the Complainant's vehicle. While on the vehicle, the Lawyer unwrapped and ate a muffin that he was carrying.
24. The Complainant requested that the Lawyer remove himself from the vehicle three times. The Lawyer does not recall hearing the Complainant's requests.
25. After approximately 15 seconds, the Complainant exited the vehicle and grasped the Lawyer's arm to remove him from the vehicle. The Lawyer punched the Complainant in the face, causing the Complainant to lose his balance and fall to the ground.
26. The Lawyer agrees that punching the Complainant was an impermissible overreaction to the Complainant's attempt to move the Lawyer off the vehicle.
27. The incident was reported to the New Westminster police department and the Complainant was interviewed by the police.
28. On December 16, 2024, the Lawyer reported the incident to the Law Society.
29. On February 10, 2025, the Lawyer was charged with assault, contrary to s. 266 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
30. On March 12, 2025, the Lawyer attended court and pleaded guilty to the assault. The Lawyer was sentenced to a conditional discharge and 12 months of probation.
31. In his oral reasons for sentence, the sentencing judge noted that but for the need for further protective conditions for the Complainant, he would have granted the Lawyer an absolute discharge. The judge also noted that it was important for the Lawyer to come forward and take responsibility for his actions in open court.
32. The probation order includes a term that the Lawyer have no contact or communication directly or indirectly with the Complainant.
33. On March 21, 2025, the Lawyer signed an undertaking to not engage in the practice of law until the final disposition of any proceedings arising from the investigation of this matter, or the release of the undertaking by the Executive Director, a hearing panel, a review board, or an interim action board under Rule 3-10 of the Law Society Rules (the "Undertaking").

34. As of the date of the approval of this consent agreement by the Chair of the Discipline Committee, the Lawyer is released from the Undertaking and is permitted to return to practice.

Mitigating Factors

35. The Lawyer self-reported his conduct to the Law Society the day after the assault and admitted to conduct unbecoming a lawyer.
36. The Lawyer further advised the Law Society that his cooperation with the Crown and the Law Society is motivated by his desire to discharge his duty as a lawyer to uphold the proper administration of justice.
37. In approving the consent agreement proposal, the Chair of the Discipline Committee also considered that the proposed suspension was consistent with the outcome in prior, similar matters.