

Discipline Case Digest



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY
Professional Accountability

File: 005-02

Allegation:

A complaint was submitted against a College member alleging violation of the College Code of Ethics –a Professional Biologist must not engage in dishonorable or questionable conduct that reflects adversely on the integrity of the biological profession. And a Professional Biologist will take reasonable precautions not to injure the professional reputation of another person through malice or negligence. The complaint alleges that the subject member harassed the complainant in a phone call and attacked their reputation and that these actions reflect adversely on the profession and College.

Member Action:

The subject member confirmed that they called the complainant but gave a different account of the telephone conversation. The subject member refuted the harassment and attack on reputation complaints as there was only one phone call made and it was a private conversation between two professional biologists. The subject member stated that the phone call was made without malice or negligence and was done with the intention of providing advice to the complainant regarding their conduct with regards to public comments made about another professional biologist.

Decision:

The Discipline Committee concluded that the complaint failed to contain sufficient particulars to refer the matter for investigation and dismissed the complaint.

Postscript:

Private conversations between two individuals, no matter how heated, does not necessarily constitute harassment or conduct unbecoming a member. Members are reminded that they are responsible for their practice and conduct both in their professional and personal lives. A member must not in private life, in extra-professional activities or in professional practice, engage in dishonourable or questionable conduct that casts doubt on the member's integrity, his or her good character and repute, or that which may bring the College or its members in disrepute.