

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE
OF THE COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ONTARIO**

PANEL: Kevin Cloutier, Chair, Professional Member
Mark Priddle, Public Member
Melissa Campbell, Professional Member
Parneet Dhillon, Professional Member
Stephen Kinsella, Public Member

BETWEEN:

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ONTARIO)	
)	<i>Carly Waisglass</i> for the
)	College of Opticians of Ontario
)	
- and -)	
)	
)	
GOPAL PURI)	<i>Registrant</i> , appearing on his own
)	behalf
)	
)	<i>Luisa Ritacca</i>
)	Independent Legal Counsel
)	
)	
)	Heard: February 24, 2026

DECISION AND REASONS

This matter came on for a hearing before a Panel of the Discipline Committee of the College of Opticians of Ontario (the “College”) on February 24, 2026. The matter was heard by way of video conference.

The Allegations

The allegations against the Registrant Gopal Puri as stated in the Notice of Hearing dated April 5, 2025 (Exhibit #1), are as follows:

STATEMENT OF SPECIFIED ALLEGATIONS

The Registrant

1. At all material times, Gopal Puri (“the Registrant”) was a registered optician in Ontario. The Registrant works at and/or owns CMAX Optical Inc., in Brampton, Ontario (the “Clinic”).

Billing Fraud

2. On or about March 9, 2023, an undercover investigator from an insurance company posing as a patient ("Patient A") attended at the Clinic. It is alleged that the Registrant did one or more of the following:
 - a. issued a receipt for single vision prescription sunglasses when, in fact, Patient A purchased a pair of sunglasses with non-prescription lenses;
 - b. included a copy of Patient A's prescription information in the patient record, despite not providing him with prescription eyewear;
 - c. told Patient A to tell his insurer they were prescription glasses if he was asked or words to that effect; and/or
 - d. told Patient A that his wife could also use her benefits at the Clinic or words to that effect.
3. It is further alleged that the invoice is a record relating to the Registrant's practice.

Allegations of Professional Misconduct

4. As a result of the above, it is alleged that the Registrant engaged in professional misconduct as set out in the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 828/93:
 - a. Paragraph 21 (Falsifying a record relating to the member's practice);
 - b. Paragraph 23 (Signing or issuing, in the member's professional capacity, a document that the member knows or ought to know contains a false or misleading statement); and/or
 - c. Paragraph 28 (Engaging in conduct or performing an act, in the course of practicing opticianry that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional).

The Registrant's Plea

The Registrant pleaded guilty to having engaged in professional misconduct as set out in the Notice of Hearing.

The Panel conducted an oral plea inquiry to satisfy itself that the Registrant's plea was voluntary, informed, and unequivocal. Having done, the panel was content to accept the Registrant's plea.

Agreed Statement of Facts

At the outset of the hearing, counsel for the College and Registrant advised the panel that an agreement had been reached on the facts and introduce an Agreed Statement of Facts (Exhibit #2) which provides in part as follows:

The parties hereby agree that the following facts may be accepted as true by the Discipline Committee of the College of Opticians of Ontario:

The Registrant

1. At all material times, Gopal Puri ("the Registrant") was a registered optician in Ontario. The Registrant works at and owns CMAX Optical Inc., in Brampton, Ontario (the "Clinic").

Billing Fraud

2. It is agreed that on March 9, 2023, an undercover investigator from an insurance company posing as a patient ("Patient A") attended the Clinic. It is agreed that the Registrant did the following:
 - a. issued a receipt for single vision prescription sunglasses when, in fact, Patient A purchased a pair of sunglasses with non-prescription lenses;
 - b. included a copy of Patient A's prescription information in the patient record, despite not providing him with prescription eyewear;
 - c. told Patient A to tell his insurer they were prescription glasses if he was asked or words to that effect; and
 - d. told Patient A that his wife could also use her benefits at the Clinic or words to that effect.
3. A redacted copy of the receipt identified at paragraph 2(a) above is attached as **Tab "A"**.
4. A redacted copy of the patient record identified at paragraph 2(b) above is attached as **Tab "B"**.
5. It is further agreed that the receipt and patient record are records relating to the Registrant's practice.

Admission of Professional Misconduct

6. By this document, the Registrant admits to the truth of the facts referred to in paragraphs 1 to 5 above (the "Agreed Facts").
7. The Registrant admits that the Agreed Facts constitute professional misconduct pursuant to clause 51(1)(c) of the Code and as defined in the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 828/93 made under the *Opticianry Act, 1991*:
 - a. Paragraph 21: Falsifying a record relating to the registrant's practice;
 - b. Paragraph 23: Signing or issuing, in the registrant's professional capacity, a document that the registrant knows or ought to know contains a false or misleading statement; and
 - c. Paragraph 28: Engaging in conduct or performing an act, in the course of practicing opticianry that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

Plea Inquiry

8. By this document, the Registrant states that:
 - a. he understands fully the nature of the allegations against him;
 - b. he has no questions with respect to the allegations against him;
 - c. he understands that by signing this document he is consenting to

the evidence as set out above being presented to the Discipline Committee;

- d. he understands that by admitting the allegations, he is waiving his right to require the College to prove the case against him;
- e. he understands that the decision of the Discipline Committee and a summary of its reasons, including reference to his name, may be published in a publication or website of the College;
- f. he understands that any agreement between him and the College with respect to the penalty proposed does not bind the Discipline Committee; and he understands and acknowledges that he is executing this document voluntarily, unequivocally, free of duress, free of inducement or bribe, and that he has been advised of his right to seek legal advice and that he has had the opportunity to receive such advice.

Decision

The Panel finds that the Registrant engaged in professional misconduct as alleged in the Notice of Hearing.

Reasons for Decision

The facts as agreed upon by the parties leave no doubt that the Registrant engaged in billing fraud. He issued a single receipt for prescription glasses, even though what he provided the patient with were non-prescription sunglasses. He further counseled the patient that he could provide similar benefits to the patient's wife, contrary to his professional and ethical obligations.

The Registrant knew or ought to have known that his conduct fell below the standards of this profession and that in engaging in such conduct he ran afoul of his professional obligations.

The Panel is satisfied that the conduct would reasonable be regarded by other members of this profession as disgraceful, dishonourable, or unprofessional.

Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs

Counsel for the College advised the Panel that a Joint Submission on Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon (Exhibit #3). The Joint Submission provides as follows:

1. The Registrant is required to appear before a panel of the Discipline Committee immediately following the hearing of this matter to be reprimanded, with the fact of the reprimand and a summary of the reprimand to appear on the public register of the College.

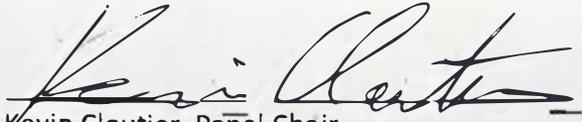
2. The Registrar is directed to suspend the Registrant's certificate of registration for a period of three months, to commence on the date of the Discipline Committee's order.
3. The Registrar is directed to impose the following specified terms, conditions and limitations on the Registrant's certificate of registration, all to be completed at his own expense and to the satisfaction of the Registrar:
 - a. The Registrant shall successfully complete the College's jurisprudence course (Chapter 2: Record Keeping, Confidentiality and Privacy) prior to his return to practice;
 - b. The Registrant shall successfully complete a Registrar-approved ethics course prior to his return to practice; and
 - c. The Registrant shall successfully complete up to three practice inspections by a Registrar-approved inspector within six months following his return to practice, where each inspection shall not exceed \$500.00 and shall be payable immediately upon completion of each inspection.
4. The Registrant is required to pay the College costs in the amount of \$8,000.00 in 12 monthly installments, with the first installment due 30 days after the date of the Discipline Committee's order and then every 30 days thereafter, as follows:
 - a. Installments #1-11 shall be in the amount of \$666.00;
 - b. Installment #12 shall be in the amount of \$674.00.
5. By this document, the Registrant states that:
 - a. he understands that any agreement between him and the College with respect to the penalty and costs does not bind the Discipline Committee; and
 - b. he understands and acknowledges that he is executing this document voluntarily, unequivocally, free of duress, free of inducement or bribe, and that he has been advised of his right to seek legal advice and that he has had the opportunity to receive such advice.

Decision and Analysis

The Panel accepted the joint submission on penalty and costs and made an order consistent with the joint submission at the end of the hearing. The Panel delivered its Reprimand, a copy of which can be found as Appendix A to this decision.

The Panel was satisfied that the penalty imposed meets the principles of deterrence and rehabilitation. The penalty recognizes the seriousness of the incident and takes into account the fact that the Registrant has cooperated throughout this process.

I, **Kevin Cloutier**, sign this Decision and Reasons for the decision as Chairperson of this Discipline panel and on behalf of the members of the Discipline panel as listed below:


Kevin Cloutier, Panel Chair

Date: March 9th, 2026

Mark Priddle
Melissa Campbell
Parneet Dhillon
Stephen Kinsella

Schedule "A"

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ONTARIO v. GOPAL PURI

As you know, Mr. Puri, as part of its penalty order this Discipline panel has ordered that you be given an oral reprimand. You agreed to this term of order as part of your joint submission on penalty filed during the course of the hearing.

The fact that you have received this reprimand will be part of the public portion of the Register and, as such, part of your record with the College.

The panel has found that you have engaged in professional misconduct in that you:

- Falsified a record relating to your practice;
- You signed or issued, in your professional capacity, a document that you knew or ought to have known Contravening the standards of the professions, more specifically,
- You engaged in conduct in the course of your practice that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

The result of your misconduct is that you have let down the public, the profession, and yourself. Your conduct was unacceptable. Of special concern to us is that your conduct involved a deliberate attempt to deceive an insurance company by issuing a receipt for a single vision prescription when in fact the patient purchased a pair of non-prescription sunglasses. This conduct puts at risk the relationship of trust that exists between this profession, our patients and their insurers.

Consequently, it is necessary for us to take steps to impress upon you the seriousness of the misconduct in which you have engaged.

We also want to make it clear to you that while the penalty that this panel has imposed upon you is a fair penalty, a more significant penalty will be imposed by another Discipline panel in the event that you are ever found to have engaged in professional misconduct again.

This concludes the hearing, we are adjourned.