



Discipline Hearing Decorum

Information on attending open discipline hearings

A discipline hearing is a hearing before a tribunal; it is conducted in a similar fashion as a court trial. The panel will be afforded the same degree of respect as a Judge. Hearings are open to the public, which includes the media.

During the Hearing

- Observers will be required to maintain silence.
- Only the participants in the hearing have the privilege of speaking and then only when recognized by the panel Chair.
- Participants and observers will rise as the panel enters the hearing room and will remain standing until the panel is seated.
- When the panel leaves the hearing room, all present will again rise and remain standing until the panel has exited the room.
- No one is to leave before breaks and no one other than witnesses or hearing participants who may be assisting witnesses will be permitted to enter once the hearing has commenced.
- Anyone not following this protocol may be removed by the Chair.

General Information for Observers

- Enter the hearing room only through the designated door. If the hearing is in session, wait until the next recess to enter the room.
- No one is to leave before breaks and no one other than hearing participants will be permitted to enter once the hearing has commenced.
- The use of any audio/visual equipment, including video cameras, still photography equipment, laptop computers, tape recorders or camera phones in the hearing room is strictly prohibited.
- All cell phones, pagers and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) must be turned off during the proceedings.
- No food, drinks or gum chewing are permitted in the hearing room.
- Refrain from speaking loudly in public areas outside the hearing room.
- Refrain from speaking with any of the participants in the hearing, which includes College of Midwives of Ontario staff, the member, witnesses, the panel and lawyers.
- There is a strict no-scent policy during the hearing. People wearing scent will be refused admission.
- The hearing room will be closed during breaks and lunch.

Should you have any questions concerning a discipline hearing, please contact the College.