

College of Nurses successfully prosecutes man illegally practising nursing in Ontario



THE STANDARD OF CARE.

For Immediate Release

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The College of Nurses of Ontario has successfully prosecuted an Ontario man in Ontario Court of Justice for impersonating a nurse and performing acts authorized only to individuals registered with the College.

Steven Roppel was convicted of 50 counts of committing offences contrary to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, and the *Nursing Act, 1991*, including performing injections and initiating intravenous lines. He was also charged for presenting himself as a nurse.

The Court imposed a cumulative fine of \$40,000, which, with mandatory surcharges, will require Roppel to pay at least \$45,000. The Court also imposed a Probation Order requiring Roppel to not commit the same offence, or any related or similar offence, in Canada. He is required to notify the Court of any changes in address, and inform the College of the particulars of his employment should he again work in the health care field.

In October 2008, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice issued an order restraining Roppel from holding himself out as a person qualified to practise as a medical radiation technologist.

It is against the law for individuals without a College registration to seek employment as a nurse. Those who practise nursing without a valid registration with the College pose a risk to patients and undermine public confidence in the nursing profession. For these reasons, it is important for facilities to check the registration status of every individual applying for a nursing job before hiring.

To confirm a nurse's registration:

- conduct a search on Find a Nurse, the College's member register, at www.cno.org
- contact Customer Service at 416-928-0900; toll-free 1-800 387-5525

The College of Nurses of Ontario is the regulatory body for the province's 150,000 Registered Nurses, Registered Practical Nurses and Nurse Practitioners. Its mission is to regulate nursing in the public interest.

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