

Q&A: Funding for Therapy and Counselling for Sexual Abuse Victims

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COLLEGE OF CHIROPODISTS OF ONTARIO
Regulating Chiropodists and Podiatrists in Ontario

The College of Chiropodists of Ontario (the College) provides funding for therapy and counselling for patients who have made allegations of sexual abuse by a chiropodist or podiatrist or where there has been a finding of sexual abuse by a chiropodist or podiatrist.

Who is eligible?

Funding is provided for therapy and counselling that occurred after the alleged sexual abuse took place. The funding is paid directly to the therapist by the College. Patients are eligible if:

- they have filed a complaint alleging sexual abuse
- they are part of a Registrar's investigation into allegations of sexual abuse
- there has been a finding of sexual abuse by a Discipline Committee panel.

If there is an appeal of a panel's findings, the therapy funding is not affected.

A patient's eligibility does not constitute a finding against the chiropodist or podiatrist and shall not be considered by any other committee.

What is the purpose of therapy funding?

Therapy or counselling can help someone cope with the impact of abuse. Funding provided by COCOO is used to pay for therapy and counselling received at any time after the reported sexual abuse took place. Payment is directly provided to your therapist or counsellor.

Funding for therapy does not mean the chiropodist or podiatrist has been found guilty of sexual abuse. A separate COCOO process investigates the sexual abuse complaint or report.

How much funding is available?

The maximum amount will depend on the specific circumstances, but it is approximately \$17,000. Once the patient's eligibility is determined and the application processed, the College will let the patient know what amount they will receive for treatment. If some of the cost of the therapy and counselling is paid for by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or a private insurer, the amount of College funding will be reduced by that amount.

Is there a time limit to apply?

Funding may be provided for up to five years from the date the patient became eligible or the date they first received therapy and counselling. To receive the full benefit of the funding, patients should submit their application as early as possible.

Can I choose the therapist or counsellor?

If you are eligible for funding, you may choose any therapist or counsellor as long as the therapist or counsellor:

- is not a family member
- has not been found guilty of sexual misconduct or been found civilly or criminally liable for a similar act
- signs a document to confirm that they are not subject to professional discipline if they are a regulated health professional.

How do I apply?

Application forms are available on the College's website [here](#).

For assistance or more information, email info@cocoo.on.ca.