

**Feb 7 2023**

**Statement from Michael Alexander, Lawyer for Dr Hoffe**

Re: Status of Dr. Hoffe's case

An unidentified party sent out an e-mail regarding Dr. Hoffe's case on the weekend, and it has caused considerable misunderstanding and harm. Dr. Hoffe and I have reviewed the e-mail, and Dr. Hoffe has authorized me to correct misapprehensions resulting from it.

First, I have not missed any deadlines for Dr. Hoffe or any of my other physician clients. Dr. Hoffe was scheduled for a hearing at the College of Physicians in BC, which was to begin on February 12th. However, I experienced a serious adverse health event just before Christmas and ended up in the ER, and I am still recovering from the episode. Shortly after being discharged from the hospital, I notified the College that I would need an adjournment of the hearing on health grounds. At that time, all filing deadlines were provisionally suspended. Subsequently, I provided a medical note to the College in pursuit of the adjournment. Later today, February 7th, my external counsel in BC will appear at a College case conference to formally present the request for a re-scheduling of Dr. Hoffe's hearing.

Second, Dr. Hoffe was charged under the old Health Professions Act. It is by no means clear at this point that the College has a right to try him under the new legislation, with its enhanced penalties. Those who suggest otherwise have jumped the gun.

Third, this e-mail was brought to my attention on Saturday evening when I attended the dinner for the Justice for the Vaccinated Conference in Toronto. During the pre-dinner reception, I learned that an attendee was spreading false information about my conduct of the Hoffe case and other physician cases on my docket. I had a meeting with her at the end of the evening in the presence of conference organizers. We had a professional and civilized conversation, and I was able to disabuse her of her mistaken views. However, another e-mail was soon circulated stating that we had been engaged in a "fight." That is not true. The matter was resolved amicably.

Finally, some of the people who circulated the original e-mail know me or have social media connections with me. They could easily have reached out to me for clarification. If they had, this whole affair, which has been damaging for me and Dr. Hoffe, might have been stopped in its tracks. Social media is a great way for us to share information and remain united in our efforts, but when it degenerates and becomes a rumour mill, as in this case, it harms the very people we are trying to help. Please think twice before tweeting, texting or posting unsubstantiated claims.

Michael Alexander, JD