

Harold Bonnell - #19904633

On November 5th, 2004, the Complaints Committee met to consider a complaint regarding a member working in the hospital sector. The member was reported for physically abusing a patient. A witness stated that a patient grabbed the member's thumb and that the member retaliated by grabbing the patient's thumb and pulling it back far enough to touch her arm. He then allegedly stated; "There! How does that feel?" The patient's thumb was dislocated as a result of the incident. The member provided a written submission denying any intent to harm the patient.

The Complaints Committee considered the evidence and determined that the incident was an accident and not a wilful act of aggression towards the patient. The Complaints Committee explained that the incident demonstrated the hazards involved in dealing with frail, elderly, and confused patients and that great care must be taken by health care providers and the health care system to ensure that employees and patients are treated in a fair and equitable manner. The Complaints Committee dismissed the complaint under subsection 56(1) of the Act.