

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE  
OF THE COLLEGE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

**PANEL:** Katie Begley, RECE, Chair  
Geneviève Breton  
Yalin Gorica, RECE

**IN THE MATTER OF ADAM TODD VIDLER, REGISTRATION # 63780**

**DECISION AND REASONS**

This matter was decided by a panel of the Discipline Committee (the “Panel”) of the College of Early Childhood Educators (the “College”) on July 10, 2024, following referral from the Complaints Committee. The matter was disposed of without a hearing pursuant to subsections 33.2(8) and (9) of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*, S.O. 2007, c. 7, Sch. 8 (“ECE Act”) and the College’s Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee and of the Fitness to Practise Committee (“Rules”).

The Panel found Adam Todd Vidler (the “Former Member”) guilty of professional misconduct and made an order directing the Registrar to revoke their certificate of registration and requiring that they be reprimanded by the Committee.

**PROCEDURE**

The College filed Form 3A with the Hearings Office pursuant to Rule 8.14 and enclosed relevant documents by way of sworn affidavit, including:

1. The decision of the Complaints Committee of the College regarding the Former Member, made under subsection 31(5) of the ECE Act, dated February 29, 2024. The Complaints Committee alleged that the Former Member engaged in professional misconduct in that

- a. he engaged in a prohibited act involving child pornography, as defined in section 1 of the Act.
  - b. he acted or failed to act in a manner that, having regard to the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional, contrary to Ontario Regulation 223/08, subsection 2(10);
  - c. he contravened a law, which contravention is relevant to his suitability to hold a certificate of registration, contrary to Ontario Regulation 223/08, subsection 2(20);  
and
  - d. he conducted himself in a manner that is unbecoming a member, contrary to Ontario Regulation 223/08, subsection 2(22).
2. Certified copies of documents from the Ontario Court of Justice, including a transcript of court proceedings from September 7, 2022, which confirm that the Former Member has been convicted or found guilty of an offence under the *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c C-46 (“Criminal Code”), related to a prohibited act involving child pornography for the same conduct or action that is the subject of the Complaints Committee’s decision.
  3. A sworn statement, accompanied by the relevant section of the *Court of Appeal for Ontario Criminal Appeal Rules*, which confirm that the time for an appeal of the conviction of finding of guilt has expired or that the Former Member’s appeal was dismissed or abandoned and no further appeal is available.
  4. A declaration that no statement will be made or filed in accordance with subsections 33.2(4) of the ECE Act.

In accordance with Rule 8.14, the Panel met and considered the allegations referred by the Complaints Committee and the documentation filed by the College.

## FINDINGS

The Panel finds the Former Member guilty of professional misconduct.

On September 7, 2022, the Former Member was convicted of possession of child pornography under s. 163.1(4) of the *Criminal Code*. Based on this information, which was confirmed by the documents filed by the College, the Panel finds that the Former Member did commit a prohibited act involving child pornography. The conviction was not overturned on appeal.

The burden of proof in a criminal matter is beyond a reasonable doubt. Because the burden of proof is higher for criminal allegations than it is for allegations of professional misconduct, the Panel can reasonably rely on the criminal conviction and find that the Former Member committed the same acts as alleged in the Notice of Hearing.

Acts involving child pornography are unquestionably abhorrent. When the Former Member accessed and possessed child pornography, he disregarded the expectations and obligations of RECEs as leaders and role models in the community dedicated to the care of children. The Former Member's misconduct was shameful and demonstrated significant moral failings. This type of crime is not only harmful to children, but it also reflects negatively on and erodes public confidence in the profession as a whole.

Such conduct is so egregious that the Panel finds that the Former Member contravened a law that is relevant to their suitability to hold a certificate of registration, acted in a manner that would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable, or unprofessional, and conducted themselves in a manner that is unbecoming an RECE.

### PENALTY


Subsection 33.2(1) of the ECE Act requires that the Discipline Committee order that any RECE who has been found guilty of professional misconduct related to a prohibited act of child pornography be revoked and reprimanded. The Panel so orders.

The Legislature has mandated the penalty in this case. The mandatory penalties of revocation and reprimand reflect the serious nature of the misconduct. It sends a strong message that registrants who harm children through prohibited acts of child pornography will not have the privilege to practise as an RECE in Ontario, protects the public by ensuring the Former Member

cannot work as an RECE, and is in keeping with the College's mandate to regulate the profession in the public interest.

The Panel finds that revocation is the only appropriate penalty in this case.

**I, Katie Begley, sign this decision and reasons for the decision as Chair of this Discipline panel and on behalf of the members of the Discipline panel.**

	July 10, 2024
_____ Katie Begley, RECE, Chair	_____ Date