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Summary of decision of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal for publication – Mid10/144P – Ms Mary Elizabeth Casey

At a hearing of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal held on 16 to 20 August 2010, Ms Mary Elizabeth Casey, midwife of Christchurch, faced six charges of professional misconduct, relating to five clients, laid by a Professional Conduct Committee. The charges arose out of Ms Casey's pre and post natal care of 4 of the 5 clients and in regard to the 5th client the charge arose out of Ms Casey’s involvement in the adoption of her client’s child.

A summary of the charges includes:
1. Breaching professional boundaries
2. Lack of informed consent
3. Inappropriate communication
4. Inadequate and/or false note taking
5. Writing notes retrospectively without acknowledging these were retrospective notes.
7. Gave inadequate and/or inappropriate treatment
8. Undertook inadequate and/or inappropriate assessments
9. Responded inadequately to her client’s needs and requests

Ms Casey agreed that her overall conduct did not meet acceptable standards and the Tribunal found that each of the charges were established to a significant degree and ordered that in terms of the seriousness of penalty:

Charge 4: Cancellation and censure.
Charge 5: Cancellation and censure.
Charge 1: Cancellation and censure.
Charge 6: Cancellation and censure.
Charge 3: If this had been the only charge before the Tribunal an order of suspension would have been given; but given the pattern of behaviour factors and lack of insight factors inherent in the above charges, ordered cancellation and censure.
Charge 2: If this had been the only charge before the Tribunal an order of imposition of conditions would have been made but given the pattern of behaviour and lack of insight factors mentioned above, ordered cancellation and censure.

The full substantive decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at: