

IN THE MATTER OF THE *VETERINARIANS ACT*, S.B.C. 2010, c. 15

and

IN THE MATTER OF
THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
and a
hearing before a DISCIPLINE PANEL
of the COLLEGE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

and

DR. PAVITAR BAJWA

Ruling on College's Application to Adjourn Generally

Panel	Carol Baird Ellan K.C., Chair Dr. Teresa Cook Dr. Catharine Shankel
Counsel for the Respondent	Clea Parfitt
Counsel for the College	Allan Doolittle Oren Adamson
Date of Ruling	July 15, 2026

1. Overview

[1] In this matter, the Respondent, Dr. Pavitar Bajwa, is facing a citation (the "Citation") alleging various forms of non-compliance and breaches of the CVBC *Bylaws*, *Professional Standards*, and the *Veterinarians Act*, arising out of his care of a 14-year-old male Shih-Tzu cross dog in 2019. The matter had proceeded through a disciplinary hearing to findings of misconduct

and submissions on sanctions and costs but was delayed primarily due to health challenges on Dr. Bajwa's part, until the Panel was sadly advised that he passed away on June 4, 2026. We have offered our condolences to his family and his lawyer.

[2] As in other disciplinary matters pertaining to Dr. Bajwa, the College has applied for a general adjournment of the discipline proceeding. The procedure of having panels adjourn Dr. Bajwa's outstanding proceedings and address the individual matters in reasons for publication has been followed consistently by other panels.¹ The College has asked the panels for rulings in order that observers of the proceedings, including complainants and the public, receive some history of the matters and an explanation for why they are not completing. The College points to its duty under the *Veterinarians Act* to protect the public interest, and to be seen to be doing so, and its statutory objects of enforcing standards of practice, pursuing matters of discipline, and governing registrants in accordance with the Act. In relation to its duty to registrants, the College submits that they pay the cost of legal expenses for disciplinary proceedings, and the cost of its disciplinary actions against Dr. Bajwa has been "massive," so it is also important that registrants understand the process that is being followed.

[3] Counsel for Dr. Bajwa, Clea Parfitt, acknowledges that she has no instructions due to the passing of Dr. Bajwa, but she questions the College's decision to seek an adjournment and not simply cancel the Citation. She submits that because Dr. Bajwa can no longer participate any further proceedings on the Citation, particularly with reasons, would be unfair to him.

[4] The Act and Bylaws do not specify a process in the event of the death of a registrant who is subject to a citation. While sometimes matters in different legal spheres proceed posthumously because it is deemed to be in the interests of justice to do so,² those are exceptional cases and there is no application to have that occur in this matter. Under section 77 of the Act, the Investigation

¹ 2026-07-08 *CVBC v. Bajwa* File No. 21-044(b), *Adjournment Decision*; 2026-07-08 *CVBC v. Bajwa*, File No. 21-011, *Adjournment Decision*; 2026-07-13 *CVBC v. Bajwa*, File No. 21-104, *Ruling on College's Application for General Adjournment*; 2026-07-14 *CVBC v. Bajwa*, File No. 23-067, *Ruling on College's Application for General Adjournment*.

² *R. v. Smith*, [2004 SCC 14](#) (CanLII), [2004] 1 SCR 385; *Ontario (College of Pharmacists) v. Savji*, [2015 ONCPDC 24](#) (CanLII); *Ontario (College of Pharmacists) v. St-Denis*, [2017 ONCPDC 10](#) (CanLII); *Ontario (College of Pharmacists) v. Sharma*, [2021 ONCPDC 18](#) (CanLII);

Committee has authority to request that the Registrar cancel a citation. In the meantime, the Panel is authorized by section 284 of the Bylaws to govern or adjourn its proceedings. Additionally, there is some support in case law for a regulatory panel's authority to complete its process following the death of a registrant.³

[5] We expect some formalities will need to be completed in order to confirm the Respondent's death, and the Panel agrees with the College and the other CVBC panels where the matter has been considered that the appropriate approach is to say something about each matter in written reasons. In light of Ms. Parfitt's position and out of an abundance of fairness, however, we will draw no prejudicial conclusions that have not already been the subject of rulings or decisions.

2. Chronology

[6] Counsel for the College has provided a helpful chronological summary of the proceedings, which the Panel has adapted and amplified for insertion here.

[7] The Citation was issued on July 8, 2024, and amended on November 13, 2024. A hearing occurred over several dates in January and February of 2025. In a decision dated September 3, 2025,⁴ the Panel found that Dr. Bajwa had committed professional misconduct by failing to obtain informed consent to administer general anesthesia to the subject animal, and in relation to medical record deficiencies.

[8] At a case management conference on October 16, 2025, the parties agreed on a schedule for written submissions on sanctions and costs, with the College's due on November 24, 2025, and Dr. Bajwa's due on January 9, 2026. The College delivered theirs as scheduled; however, in the meantime, on November 8, 2025, Dr. Bajwa had travelled to India. On January 9, 2025, his counsel delivered a notice of motion seeking to defer Dr. Bajwa's submissions on the basis that his health challenges had worsened.

³ *College of Patent Agents and Trademark Agents (CPATA) v Eric Fincham*, [2025 CPATA 5 \(CanLII\)](#)

⁴ 2025-09-03 CVBC v Bajwa File No. 21-010, [Discipline Decision](#)

[9] The College consented to an extension of time and on January 23, 2026, the Panel issued a ruling extending the deadline for Dr. Bajwa's submission to February 23, 2026. On February 23, Ms. Parfitt delivered a further motion to defer Dr. Bajwa's submissions. The College consented to a further extension until April 15, 2026, and the Panel accepted the College's consent to the extension. Dr. Bajwa's counsel missed the April 15, 2026, deadline; however, she made a further motion on April 23, 2026, to indefinitely defer his submissions. The College consented to another extension of time only to May 15, 2026. The Panel granted the extension to May 15 and requested further information on or before that date. Dr. Bajwa's counsel again missed that deadline. She made a further deferral application on May 19, 2026, and provided an update regarding his deteriorating condition.

[10] No further steps were taken in the proceeding until Dr. Bajwa passed away on June 4, 2026. This matter had therefore proceeded through to findings of professional misconduct, with several procedural rulings preceding and following that, over a period of about a year and a half. Many of the procedural issues centred on Dr. Bajwa's absences and deteriorating health. On some occasions, the Panel had difficulty obtaining sufficient information in support of the various postponements, and trouble determining whether that difficulty was attributable to Dr. Bajwa, to his counsel, or simply to obstacles in communication arising from Dr. Bajwa's ongoing health challenges. These difficulties are exemplified in the rulings provided by the Panel on January 17, 2025, and January 23, 2026, but continued to one degree or another throughout the proceeding.

[11] The College's characterization of this and other matters relating to Dr. Bajwa in its submissions is therefore apt: it presented a challenging task of balancing the public interest in the timely resolution of disciplinary proceedings with Dr. Bajwa's right to have a fair opportunity to participate in his hearing; particularly in light of his deteriorating health within the year preceding his death.

3. Conclusion

[1] The Panel will follow the process adopted by other panels in relation to Dr. Bajwa's outstanding matters. It is unfortunate that the complainant in this matter will not have the benefit

of a decision in relation to the complaint; however, we accept that the principles applicable in light of the death of the Respondent foreclose the Panel from providing that.

[2] The discipline proceeding is adjourned generally pending further action on the part of the Investigation Committee and/or the Registrar to cancel the Citation, in due course.

Carol Baird Ellan

Carol Baird Ellan, K.C., Chair

Teresa Cook

Dr. Teresa Cook

Catharine Shankel

Dr. Catharine Shankel