
Royal Ottawa Health Care Group Fined \$75,000 After Stabbing of Staff by Patient

August 16, 2017 2:15 P.M.

BROCKVILLE, ON - The Royal Ottawa Health Care Group was fined \$75,000 after a nurse was stabbed by a patient at the Brockville Mental Health Centre.

The Royal Ottawa Health Care Group operates the Brockville Mental Health Centre in addition to other mental health care and research facilities in Ottawa.

On October 10, 2014 a nurse working at the Brockville Mental Health Centre was critically injured while observing a patient at the centre's Forensic Treatment Unit. The incident occurred after the nurse had escorted the patient to the washroom. After the patient left the washroom, the patient stabbed the nurse multiple times with a pen. The nurse was taken to hospital for emergency treatment.

This incident was one of a series of incidents that took place after this patient was transferred to the unit. Multiple nurses were assaulted by the patient between August and October 2014.

Following a trial, the court found the defendant failed to reassess the risk of workplace violence as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The court held the defendant had an obligation to reassess the risk of workplace violence and eliminate the attacks on staff.

Section 32.0.3(4) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act states that an employer must reassess the risks of workplace violence as often as is necessary to ensure the related policies and programs continue to protect workers from workplace violence.

The Royal Ottawa Health Care Group was fined \$75,000 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Brockville by Justice Richard T. Knott on August 16, 2017.

The court also imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

Court Information at a Glance

Location:

Provincial Offences Court/Ontario Court of Justice

132 Wall Street, Suite 100

Brockville, Ontario

Judge:

Justice Richard T. Knott

Date of Sentencing:

August 16, 2017

Defendant:

Royal Ottawa Health Care Group

1145 Carling Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Workplace:

Brockville Mental Health Centre

1809 Oxford Avenue

Brockville, Ontario

Matter:

Occupational health and safety

Conviction:

Occupational Health and Safety Act

Section 32.0.3(4)

Crown Counsel:

Grainne McGrath and Graeme Adams

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