

## **Complaint notice for HGI website**

### **July 2019: Mr Clifford Emmerson; HGI Reference no: 152623; Ipswich, Suffolk**

The complaint against the above-named Registrant of the Human Givens Institute (HGI) was investigated and taken to Adjudication in line with the HGI Complaints Procedure.

The Adjudication Panel considered the alleged breaches of the HGI Code of Ethics and Conduct (<https://www.hgi.org.uk/about-hgi/ethics-and-conduct>).

The Adjudication Panel, in accepting this complaint, was concerned with the allegations made within the complaint suggesting breaches of the HGI Code of Ethics and Conduct, in particular with the following:

#### **1. Confusing own needs with that of the client**

The Complainant alleged that:

- Mr Emmerson made her uneasy with a series of text messages and that he “used sexually suggestive language and behaved generally in a way that made her feel extremely uncomfortable” including “when I stood and paid him he pulled me into a long embrace.”

#### **2. Offering an enticement to withdraw the complaint**

The Complainant alleged that:

- following her complaint the complainant alleged that Mr Emmerson made contact with her husband and offered him a financial inducement to withdraw the complaint

#### **3. Breaches of confidentiality**

The Complainant alleged that in contacting her husband as detailed above, apparently without her consent Mr Emmerson breached her privacy and confidentiality.

## **Findings**

On the balance of probability, having fully considered the above allegations in relation to the available documentary evidence, together with the testimony given by the Complainant and Mr Emmerson, the Adjudication Panel made the following findings:

### **1. Confusing own needs with that of the client**

The Adjudication Panel found that Mr. Emmerson had breached the HGI Code of Ethics and Conduct in confusing his own needs with that of his client and broken the relationship of trust that should focus on the client's needs.

In view of the available evidence, it was decided that the allegation of, confusing his own needs with that of the client's needs, be upheld.

### **2. Offering an enticement to withdraw the complaint**

The Adjudication Panel found that Mr. Emmerson had breached the HGI Code of Ethics and Conduct in that he contacted the client's husband in spite of his awareness that therapists who are the subject of complaints are instructed that on no account must they attempt to make contact with complainants.

In view of the available evidence, it was decided there was not enough evidence to confirm that he offered a bribe.

### **3. Breaches of confidentiality**

The Adjudication Panel found that Mr Emmerson had breached the HGI Code of Ethics and Conduct in relation to the allegations in question.

In view of the available evidence, the panel upheld point 3 of the complaint as a clear Breach of the HGI Code of Ethics and Conduct.

## **Sanctions**

The panel decided that Mr. Emmerson was guilty of unprofessional conduct which caused the client severe distress and demonstrated professional incompetence throughout his work with this client.

The panel decided to remove Mr. Emmerson from the HGI register.

A note to this effect has been displayed on the HGI website and will remain for a period of five years from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the date on which the Adjudication Panel made its decision.