

**Following an appeal by Mr Rupert Sutton to the High Court in relation to the Council's decision to cancel his registration as a social worker, the High Court modified the sanction by imposing suspension and conditions, the details of which are outlined below:**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Applicant's Registration do remain suspended until such time as the Applicant provides evidence of successful completion of the following courses to the Respondent:

1. Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse
2. National Standards for Adult Safeguarding
3. The Open University course, an Introduction to Social Work.

**AND ON THE CONSENT OF THE APPLICANT** to these conditions being reflected on the Respondent's Register of Social Workers

**IT IS ORDERED** that the following conditions be attached to the Applicant's Registration on the Respondents Register of Social Workers

**Health Conditions:**

**From the date of this Order**, the following conditions shall apply:

1. That the Applicant undergoes a medical examination by a CORU appointed medical practitioner and consents to the results of the medical examination being shared with CORU. The medical practitioner shall put a treatment plan in place for the Applicant, which plan may include a referral to Aspect Service (as recommended by Dr O'Halloran) or a service of equivalent nature. The Applicant shall cooperate and comply with the treatment plan put in place and any directions given by the CORU appointed medical practitioner.
2. That quarterly reports are sent from the treating clinician responsible for the Respondent's care to CORU indicating the Applicant's ongoing co-operation and compliance (or otherwise) with the treatment plan.
3. Reports from his treating clinician of any lack of cooperation and/or compliance with the Applicant's treatment plan or deterioration of the Applicant's health be brought to the attention of CORU without delay.
4. That these health conditions will remain in place for a minimum period of two years, at which stage they will be reviewed by CORU. In the event of the Applicant not being in full

compliance with Condition 1 the period of medical review will be extended for a further period of two years

**Supervision Conditions:**

1. **During the period of suspension**, the Applicant shall complete the following courses at his own expense, and shall furnish evidence of successful completion to CORU without delay:
  - i. Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse
  - ii. National Standards for Adult Safeguarding
  - iii. The Open University course, an Introduction to Social Work.
2. **For 6 months after the expiration of the suspension period**, the following conditions shall apply:
  - a) The Applicant is to identify a supervisor to be approved by CORU (hereinafter "the Supervisor") at the level of Social Worker Manager or higher and who is registered with CORU.
  - b) The Applicant shall provide evidence to CORU that he has informed his Supervisor of these conditions.
  - c) The Applicant and the Supervisor shall prepare and agree a learning plan ("the Learning Plan") setting out objectives and competencies to address the deficiencies in his conduct found proven in the hearing into his conduct. The Learning Plan to be provided to CORU for approval.
  - d) The Applicant must undergo six months of practising the profession with the Supervisor in a structured manner in accordance with the Learning Plan and applicable professional standards (hereinafter "individualised supervision"). There shall be no other form of practice in this period.
  - e) The Supervisor shall provide a written report to CORU at the conclusion of the individualised supervision period (six months) noting whether the competencies in the Applicant's Learning Plan have been met. The Applicant may not return to unsupervised practice until he has successfully met the competencies in his agreed Learning Plan as has been approved by the Supervisor. A further period of supervision (and such further periods) will be required if the supervisor determines that the competencies have not been met.

- f) The Applicant must comply with any supports the Supervisor deems appropriate to support the Applicant's return to unsupervised practice to ensure his knowledge, skills and expertise are up-to-date.
  - g) CORU shall review the written report from the Supervisor and shall confirm as expeditiously as possible if the Applicant can or cannot return to unsupervised practise in Ireland. A further period of supervision (and such further periods) will be required if the Supervisor determines that the competencies have not been met.
3. **For a period of 2 years** after the expiration of the suspension period, the following conditions will apply:
- a) The Applicant will inform his employer and/or prospective employer, of the fact and terms of these conditions and to provide CORU with evidence of the notification within 7 working days
  - b) The Applicant shall not engage in private practice or to provide social work services outside the terms of his employment.
  - c) The Applicant shall not be appointed as the social worker for or shall not carry out social work services in respect of vulnerable female service users without being chaperoned by a colleague.
  - d) The Applicant will notify CORU if he applies for registration and/or intends to work as a social worker outside the jurisdiction and the Applicant will notify that regulatory body of the findings and sanctions imposed by CORU and confirmed by the High Court. Evidence of notification to be provided to CORU.

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Applicant is to bear all costs associated with the implementation of these conditions (health and supervision) and that there be no costs order in relation to the within application.