

4 May 2017

Solicitor Office of Legal Counsel Ministry of Justice

Dear

On 24 November 2017 the Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal ("Tribunal") made an order that the name of a practitioner and his former client be permanently suppressed.

This is recorded in the Tribunal decision numbered [2016] NZLCDT 34. This decision is available on the Ministry of Justice website.

On 28 April 2017 I received an email from the the practitioner who was granted permanent name suppression by the Tribunal, informing me that Grace Haden had breached that order and published the name of the tribunal and the tribunal in a blog. A link to the blog was included.

The sections of the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 that deal with "restrictions on publication" and "publication" are s 240 and s 263. Below are excerpts of the relevant parts of those sections:

"240 Restrictions on publication

- (1) If the Disciplinary Tribunal is of the opinion that it is proper to do so, having regard to the interest of any person (including (without limitation) the privacy of the complainant (if any)) and to the public interest, it may make any 1 or more of the following orders:
 - (c) an order prohibiting the publication of the name or any particulars of the affairs of the person charged or any other person.

*263 Publication

- (1) Every person commits an offence who, without lawful excuse, acts in contravention of any order made by the Disciplinary Tribunal under any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of section 240(1).
- (2) Every person who commits an offence against this section is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$25,000."

parties in proceedings in the Tribunal. It is clear from the blog, which is attached, that the suppression order has been breached. Accordingly this matter is being referred to the MoJ Office of Legal Counsel.

Yours sincerely Hunch