



What Does Incapacitated Mean?

"Incapacitated" has a special meaning under the [Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#).

There are two essential components. One, the health care professional must have some type of physical or mental condition or disorder. Two, this condition or disorder must affect his or her ability to practise safely and effectively. If that's the case, in the interests of the public, the professional could either: have certain restrictions placed on the certificate of registration (terms, conditions or limitations) or have the certificate of registration revoked and no longer be permitted to practise.

Incapacity cases may involve a number of conditions or disorders, including:

- Physical illness
- Mental illness (e.g. that impairs judgement)
- Mood disorders
- Substance abuse
- Certain physical or sensory disabilities that impair some aspect of practice
- Cognitive impairments (e.g. dementia)

Not everyone with these (or other) conditions or disorders necessarily meets the definition of incapacitated. For example, a person with a mental or mood disability who takes appropriate measures (such as medication) to manage their condition may not be incapacitated when it comes to practising their profession.

Incapacity also refers to the current condition of the professional, not past events. Any reporting must be based on the belief that, on reasonable grounds, the professional is incapacitated, not on unsubstantiated rumours or mere suspicion.