

On 15 February 2022, the Legal Profession Complaints Committee (**Committee**), pursuant to section 426 of the *Legal Profession Act 2008* (WA) (**Act**), resolved it was satisfied there was a reasonable likelihood the practitioner would be found guilty by the State Administrative Tribunal of unsatisfactory professional conduct within the meaning of sections 402, 404 and 438 of the Act, where his conduct was in breach of Rules 6(1)(d), 6(2)(b), 6(2)(c) and 40 of the *Legal Profession Conduct Rules 2010* (WA) in the following circumstances:

The practitioner was acting for an accused who was charged with several child sex offences (**charges**). The charges related to alleged conduct by the accused towards his step-daughter (**complainant**).

At the request of the complainant's mother, who was the wife of the accused and a potential witness in any trial of the charges, the practitioner met with the complainant and her mother together where there was a retraction of the allegations which led to the charges.

The Committee considered that the practitioner should have declined to meet with the complainant, either alone or with her mother, and should instead have referred the complainant and her mother to an independent lawyer.

Penalty: The practitioner was reprimanded.

 Fine of \$2,000.