

Notice of Decision

Registrant	Cillian Gerald Joseph Sheridan
Registration number	6010441
Part of Register	Part 2 – Adult Residential Care Worker
Sanction	Warning to remain on your registration for a period of 1 year
Date of Effect	23rd November 2021

This is a notice of decision of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (the Council).

Decision

The Council has decided:

1. that there is evidence that your Fitness to Practise is impaired by reason of a Conviction in the United Kingdom for a criminal offence, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019.
2. to issue a warning and direct that a record of the warning should be placed on your entry in the Register for a period of 1 year.

Conviction in the United Kingdom

That whilst being registered as a social care worker, on 17th November 2020 you were convicted of the following offence:

- [You] on / or before 22-MAR-2018 at [redacted], you the said defendant were the keeper of dogs, to wit a female Cocker Spaniel type dog (deceased) and a male Jack Russell type dog for which you failed to take reasonable steps to ensure the needs of the animal were met contrary to Section 9 (1) and Section 31 (1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011. contrary to Section 9(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Reasons

The reasons that this behaviour is considered to constitute impaired fitness to practise are:

- The public has the right to expect a registered social care worker, in whom it places trust and confidence, to uphold the law, to not engage in offending behaviour or otherwise behave in a way in work, or outside work which would call into question their suitability to work in social care services.
- Your behaviour has fallen below the standard expected of a person registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers

The Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers that your behaviour has breached, are as follows:

Standard 5: As a social care worker, you must uphold public trust and confidence in social care services. In particular you must not:

5.8 Behave in a way, in work or outside work, which would call into question your suitability to work in social care services.

Sanction

Having regard to the document '*Consensual Disposal Indicative Sanctions*' the Council decided that the appropriate sanction was the imposition of a warning on your registration for a period of 1 year.

Reasons for the Sanction

When reaching its decision the Council considered the following factors:

- You have been convicted of failing to take reasonable steps to ensure the needs of an animal were met.
- The details of this case were reported online and are in the public domain.
- Your actions had the potential to bring the profession into disrepute.
- Your behaviour has demonstrated a serious disregard for the NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice.

The following mitigating circumstances were taken into account in reaching this decision:

- The offence occurred outside work and therefore did not cause direct or indirect harm to service users.
- You brought the conviction to the Council's attention via self-declaration and have engaged with the Council's enquiries.
- A more serious charge of causing the dogs to suffer unnecessarily was dismissed.
- You were not the owner of the dogs and they belonged to a family member.
- You were looking after the dogs on behalf of a family member at the time.
- You sought treatment for the dogs which was the appropriate course of action.
- You received a monetary fine and were not banned from keeping animals.
- You have a previous good work history and good character and there has been no repetition of your behaviour.
- There is no previous record of misconduct with the Council.

Consent

Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you consented to the imposition of a warning on 09th November 2021. A record of the warning has been placed on your entry in the Register for a period of one year and does not affect your ability to practise.

Date of Effect

This warning comes into effect on 23rd November 2021.



Head of Fitness to Practise

Date 23rd November 2021