

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE REVIEW COUNCIL

**IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING UNDER SECTION 11.1 of the
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. J. 4, as amended**

**Concerning a Complaint about the Conduct of Justice of the Peace
James Ziegler**

Before:

Justice Riun Shandler, Chair
Ontario Court of Justice

Justice of the Peace Kathryn Kellough
Ontario Court of Justice

Naomi Solomon
Community Member

Counsel:

Mr. Gerald Chan,
Presenting Counsel

Ms. Julianna Greenspan,
Counsel for Justice of the Peace Ziegler

Hearing Panel of the Justices of the Peace Review Council

ENDORSEMENT RE: HEARING SCHEDULING

[1] A complaints committee of the Justices of the Peace Review Council, composed of a judge, a justice of the peace, and a Law Society or community member of the Review Council, ordered a hearing into a complaint concerning the conduct of Justice of the Peace James Ziegler. On August 28, 2026, presenting counsel, Mr. Gerald Chan, filed the Notice of Hearing setting out the allegations concerning Justice of the Peace Ziegler's conduct. The Notice of Hearing includes

allegations that Justice of the Peace Ziegler engaged in inappropriate and unprofessional conduct towards a female judicial colleague at the Kitchener courthouse on April 19, 2024, including harassment and/or sexual harassment in the workplace.

[2] On September 10, 2026, the hearing panel convened for the first day of the hearing. At this appearance, preliminary motions were argued, followed by presenting counsel's opening statement, after which Mr. Chan began his examination in chief of the complainant.

[3] Prior to the complainant being called to give evidence, counsel for Justice of the Peace Ziegler, Ms. Julianna Greenspan, advised the hearing panel that she had no available dates to continue the hearing prior to His Worship's mandatory retirement date at the end of October 2026 because of her existing court schedule. It is noted that the hearing panel will lose jurisdiction over this matter after Justice of the Peace Ziegler's mandatory retirement takes effect.

[4] Ms. Greenspan agreed to advise the Registrar if there were any openings in her schedule as a result of any collapsed trial matters in the period between September 10 and His Worship's mandatory retirement date. The chair of the hearing panel informed the parties that if an opening in Ms. Greenspan's schedule presented itself, the panel would convene for a conference with the parties to discuss how to proceed.

[5] The hearing was adjourned *sine die* on a date to be fixed based on counsel's availability.

[6] On October 9, 2026, Ms. Greenspan wrote to the Registrar to advise that, as a result of a matter that collapsed, she could offer availability on Friday October 16 and Saturday October 17. Following an exchange of correspondence between the parties, the Registrar and the hearing panel, a case management meeting was convened on October 13, 2026.

[7] At the outset of the case management meeting, the chair of the hearing panel reviewed the scheduling circumstances leading to the case management meeting, noting the following points that emerged from the correspondence exchanged:

1. The panel is unavailable to sit on October 16 due to previously scheduled court commitments of the chair of the hearing panel that cannot be rescheduled.
2. Justice of the Peace Ziegler is unavailable to attend the hearing on October 17. However, Ms. Greenspan and Mr. Chan indicated a willingness to proceed in his absence for the purpose of commencing the cross-examination of the complainant.
3. According to Ms. Greenspan, it is unlikely that the cross-examination of the complainant could be completed in one day.
4. The parties continue to estimate that approximately three hearing days in addition to October 17 would be required to complete the misconduct phase of the proceeding.

5. Ms. Greenspan advised that, following October 17, she does not anticipate having any availability before Justice of the Peace Ziegler's mandatory retirement due to previously scheduled matters that are expected to proceed.
6. Mr. Chan's availability between now and Justice of the Peace Ziegler's mandatory retirement date is limited, although he could potentially be available on October 19 and 20. Those dates, however, are unavailable to Ms. Greenspan.

[8] At the case management meeting, both counsel acknowledged that the available window for completing the misconduct hearing prior to Justice of the Peace Ziegler's mandatory retirement has narrowed significantly since the matter was adjourned on September 10. Both counsel agreed that proceeding on October 17 for what would likely be only a partial cross-examination of the complainant would have little practical utility given the absence of any additional dates on which the hearing could be completed. Ms. Greenspan acknowledged that Justice of the Peace Ziegler's choice of counsel complicated efforts to have this matter addressed, despite her client's interest in resolving it.

[9] Having considered the submissions of counsel, the hearing panel concludes that it would not be an efficient or productive use of the parties' or the panel's resources, nor would it be in the public interest to proceed on October 17 in circumstances where there is no realistic prospect of completing the hearing before Justice of the Peace Ziegler's mandatory retirement date.

[10] The hearing panel remains available to revisit scheduling should there be a material change in circumstances. Ms. Greenspan has agreed to promptly advise the hearing panel should any of her presently scheduled matters collapse or should circumstances otherwise change such that additional hearing dates become available between now and Justice of the Peace Ziegler's mandatory retirement from the bench.

[11] The hearing accordingly stands adjourned *sine die*.

Released: this 15th day of October, 2026.