

October 11, 2022

Mr. Brian Goldfinger

Goldfinger Injury Lawyers
167 Sheppard Ave. West
Toronto, ON, M2N 1M9

Dear Mr. Goldfinger,

As the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists (OSOT) Auto Sector Team, we represent the OSOT members who provide occupational therapy services in the Auto Insurance Sector, both in the capacity of treatment providers and independent examiners, within the SABS and tort context.

We take great offense to your September 29, 2022 blog titled, “When Occupational Therapists and Insurance Companies Try to Fool You”. In that article, you have incorrectly depicted occupational therapists as disreputable ambulance chasers. You slandered our role as regulated health care providers and, ultimately, discredited our level of professionalism.

Occupational therapists are regulated in the province of Ontario. The *Regulated Health Professions Act (1991)* and the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario, sets both the educational and practice standards for occupational therapists and protects the public if any therapist works in an unscrupulous or unprofessional manner. The Law Society of Ontario would play a similar role with respect to those practicing in the legal space.

Whether a lawyer or an insurance company refers an accident-injured patient to an occupational therapist (OT), that OT has an ethical and professional obligation to be **client-centered**. In other words, neither the lawyer nor the insurance company should influence the OT’s opinion with respect to the needs of the injured patient. Consequently, it does not matter ‘who sees the patient first’—the patient will receive what they require based on their accident injuries.

We hope this provides a better explanation as to the roles and responsibilities of the occupational therapist in a regulated sector. We respectfully request that you immediately retract your blog and provide a corrected statement about the important role occupational therapists play in patient care and recovery. We would be happy to work with you in creating the content.

If you have any further questions, we would be happy to respond.

Regards,

Karen Rucas, OT Reg. (Ont.)
OSOT Auto Insurance Sector Team Chair

Marnie Lofsky, OT Reg. (Ont.), MA (Leadership)
OSOT Executive Director