



# CANLII TIPS & TRICKS

HOW TO FIND CASE LAW: METHOD 1

  
**COURTHOUSE**  
**LIBRARIES | BC**

# SCENARIO

How do I find Supreme Court of British Columbia cases involving patients who were sexually assaulted by their physicians?

# Add Keywords into the Document Text Field

physician patient sexual assault x?



Case name, document title, file number, author or citation ?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?

[All CanLII](#)

[Cases](#)

[Legislation](#)

[Commentary](#)

 [My Documents](#)

All jurisdictions ▾

By relevance ▾



Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: After parsing the question it is clear that physician, patient, and sexual assault are the most relevant search terms to use.

# Add Boolean Operators

physician patient sexual assault OR sexual harassment OR sexual misconduct x?



Case name, document title, file number, author or citation ?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?

[All CanLII](#) [Cases](#) [Legislation](#) [Commentary](#)  [My Documents](#)

All jurisdictions ▾

By relevance ▾  ▾  ▾ 

Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: We will also add sexual harassment and sexual misconduct just in case there are documents that use either phrase interchangeably with sexual assault. The OR operator will help us find documents that have sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct in them.

# Add Quotation Marks

physician patient "sexual assault" OR "sexual harassment" OR "sexual misconduct" x?

Case name, document title, file number, author or citation ?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?



- All CanLII
- Cases
- Legislation
- Commentary
- My Documents

All jurisdictions ▾

By relevance ▾

Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: Adding quotation marks will help us find documents that have sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct as complete phrases rather than as separate words.


# Add Parentheses

physician patient ("sexual assault" OR "sexual harassment" OR "sexual misconduct") x?



Case name, document title, file number, author or citation ?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?

[All CanLII](#) [Cases](#) [Legislation](#) [Commentary](#)  [My Documents](#)

All jurisdictions ▾

By relevance ▾   

Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: Adding parentheses will allow us to prioritize documents that have sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct as complete phrases.

# Add Proximity Operators

physician /s patient /s ("sexual assault" OR "sexual harassment" OR "sexual misconduct") x?

Case name, document title, file number, author or citation ?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?



- All CanLII
- Cases
- Legislation
- Commentary
- My Documents

All jurisdictions ▾

By relevance ▾ ▾ ▾

Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: Using the proximity operator /s will allow us to search for keywords or phrases that are in the same sentence. At this point we can press ENTER and search for documents.

# Filter by Jurisdiction

All CanLII (131)   Cases (126)   Legislation (0)   Commentary (5)   My Documents

All jurisdictions ▾   By relevance ▾   [Menu] ▾   [Window] ▾   [RSS]

<input type="checkbox"/> Canada (Federal)	7	<a href="#">Set up alert feed</a>	<a href="#">Email this query</a>	<a href="#">Run a saved query</a> ▾	<a href="#">Browse Lexbox</a> ▾
<input type="checkbox"/> British Columbia	16				
<input type="checkbox"/> Alberta	9				
<input type="checkbox"/> Saskatchewan	4				
<input type="checkbox"/> Manitoba	8				
<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario	58				
<input type="checkbox"/> Quebec	5				
<input type="checkbox"/> New Brunswick	4				
<input type="checkbox"/> Nova Scotia	9				

by 1 document

— practise — complainants — fondling

accused, a **physician**, was convicted of **sexual assault** on a **patient** from 1991 to 1994. [...] [14] The Crown relies on

**physicians** have been sentenced for **sexual assault** on a **patient**. [...] In imposing the sentence in Abdelhamid , the trial

breach of trust involved in a **sexual assault** committed by a **physician** on a **patient**. [...]

COMMENTARY: We are only interested in seeing British Columbia court decisions in our search results. To that end we will click on All Jurisdictions and select British Columbia.



# Filter by Document Type

All CanLII (16) **Cases (16)** Legislation (0) Commentary (0) My Documents

British Columbia ▾ All courts and tribunals ▾ Any date ▾ Clear filters By relevance ▾ ☰ ▫ RSS

lexbox Save this query Set up alert feed Email this query Run a saved query ▾ Browse Lexbox ▾

! There are 2 decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada that match your search. [Add them to your results.](#)

1. [R. v. Anthony](#), 2014 BCSC 2132 (CanLII)  
Supreme Court of British Columbia — British Columbia  
2014-07-03 | 22 pages | cited by [3 documents](#)  
*sentence — sexual — alternative therapy — offender — invasive*

[...] • R. v. Poon, 2012 SKCA 76 – the offender, a **physician**, was convicted of **sexually assaulting** two **patients** under the guise of undertaking a gynecological examination. [...] • R. v. Cameron, [1995] P.E.I.J. No. 163 (C.A.) – a total sentence of 23 months' incarceration imposed on a **physician** who **sexually assaulted** three **patients** in his office while conducting medical examinations was reduced on appeal to 12 months' incarceration. [...] • R. v. Rohani, 2010 BCSC 1032 – a **physician sexually assaulted** a 16-year-old male **patient** by performing oral sex on him in the course of administering a therapeutic massage. [...]

Quick Survey 👍

COMMENTARY: Clicking on the Cases tab will limit our search results to include BC court cases only.

# Filter by Court Level

The screenshot shows the Lexbox search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All CanLII (16)', 'Cases (16)', 'Legislation (0)', 'Commentary (0)', and 'My Documents'. Below these, there are filters for 'British Columbia', 'All courts and tribunals', and 'Any date'. A search bar contains the text 'query' and a button 'Run a saved query'. To the right, there are buttons for 'Clear filters', 'By relevance', and a 'Browse Lexbox' button. A dropdown menu is open, showing a list of court and tribunal levels with their corresponding counts:

Filter Option	Count
✓ All courts and tribunals	16
All courts	15
Appeal courts	5
All tribunals	1
Labour	0
Privacy	0
Human rights	1
Discipline	0
Securities	0

At the bottom of the dropdown menu, there is a text input field labeled 'Select specific courts and tribunals'. The search results area shows a list of results, with the first one being 'R. v. Anth... Supreme 2014-07-... sentence'. A snippet of the first result is visible: 'sexually assaulting two patients under the guise of undertaking a total sentence of 23 months' incarceration imposed on a physician who... R. v. patient by performing oral sex on him in the course of administering a...'. A 'Quick Survey' button is located in the bottom right corner.

COMMENTARY: Clicking on the All Courts and Tribunals tab will allow us to filter our search results by a specific court or tribunal. For our purposes we will click on Select Specific Courts and Tribunals in order to find the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

# Filter by Relevance

The screenshot shows the Lexbox search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All CanLII (16)', 'Cases (10)', 'Legislation (0)', 'Commentary (0)', and 'My Documents'. Below the tabs, there are filters for 'British Columbia', 'Supreme Court of British Columbia', and 'Any date'. A 'Clear filters' button and a 'By relevance' dropdown menu are also visible. The 'By relevance' dropdown menu is open, showing the following options: 'Sort by document relevance' (checked), 'Sort by date: newest', 'Sort by date: oldest', 'Sort by most cited', 'Sort by court level', and 'Sort by most pages'. Below the menu, there are buttons for 'Save this query', 'Set up alert feed', and 'Email this query'. The main content area shows a search result for 'R. v. Anthony, 2014 BCSC 2132 (CanLII)'. The result includes the case name, court, date, page count, and citation information. A snippet of the case text is displayed below the result, mentioning 'R. v. Poon, 2012 SKCA 76' and 'R. v. Cameron, [1995] P.E.I.J. No. 163 (C.A.)'. At the bottom right, there are icons for social media and a 'Quick Survey' button.

All CanLII (16) Cases (10) Legislation (0) Commentary (0) My Documents

British Columbia Supreme Court of British Columbia Any date Clear filters By relevance

lexbox Save this query Set up alert feed Email this query

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Quick Survey

COMMENTARY: There are many sorting options. In this example we will choose Sort by Most Cited.

# Mission Accomplished!

All CanLII (16) **Cases (10)** Legislation (0) Commentary (0) My Documents

British Columbia ▾ Supreme Court of British Columbia ▾ Any date ▾ Clear filters Most cited first ▾ ☰ ▾ □ ▾ 📡

lexbox

1.

[McClelland v. Dr. Stewart](#), 2003 BCSC 1292 (CanLII)

Supreme Court of British Columbia — British Columbia

2003-08-20 | 57 pages | cited by [10 documents](#)

*misfeasance in public office — bad faith — prima facie duty of care — patients — sexual*

[...] [3] The plaintiffs claim that they were **sexually assaulted** as a result of Dr. Stewart's use of deception, coercion, manipulation and the abuse of power and trust involved in the **physician/patient** relationship. [...] 52. The Defendant, College of **Physicians** and Surgeons of British Columbia, had knowledge of circumstances which ought to have put it on an inquiry relating to Dr. Stewart's **sexual assaults** or inappropriate examinations of a sexual nature on his female **patients** and the Plaintiffs in particular and it failed in its duty to [...] Arguing that a duty to protect individual women from **sexual assault** is quite consistent with the duty to serve and protect the public as a whole, he urged that the College, when failing to act upon the knowledge it had, was not making a policy decision regarding **sexual assaults** by **physicians** on **patients** or making [...]

Quick Survey 👍

COMMENTARY: If you are interested in learning more about how to search in CanLII effectively we recommend visiting <https://www.canlii.org/en/info/search.html> for more tips and tricks!