

**IN THE MATTER OF *THE MOTOR DEALER ACT*, R.S.B.C. 1998, c.316 and  
*THE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT*, S.B.C. 2004, c.2**

BETWEEN:

**THE VEHICLE SALES AUTHORITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

THE AUTHORITY

AND:

**KARAN SHARMA**

RESPONDENT/SALESPERSON

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**DECISION OF THE REGISTRAR OF MOTOR DEALERS  
RE: APPLICATION FOR INTERIM LICENSE SUSPENSION**

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**Date and location of decision: September 29, 2025, at Langley, British Columbia**

**By way of written submissions**

**I. Introduction**

1. The Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia ("the Authority") seeks the interim suspension of the salesperson license of Karan Sharma (#302815) pending the final disposition of this matter.
2. A Hearing Notice was issued by the Authority on September 9, 2025. Mr. Sharma is the sole Respondent. The Hearing Notice was amended by the Authority on September 10, 2025. In the Amended Hearing Notice ("AHN"), the Authority seeks cancellation or alternatively suspension of Mr. Sharma's salesperson's license, alleging that he has breached section 35(3)(a) of the *Motor Dealer Act* ("MDA") and section 33(2)(a) of the *Motor Dealer Act Regulations* ("MDAR").

3. Following a Pre-Hearing Conference on September 16, 2025, it was agreed between the Parties that Mr. Sharma would file his written submissions in this matter by September 24, 2025 and that the Authority would waive its right to reply. It was further agreed that Mr. Sharma would file his written response to the AHN by October 10, 2025 and that the Authority would file its Reply by October 17, 2025. While not explicitly agreed to, Mr. Sharma would be permitted pursuant to Rule 30.2(d) to file any further submissions, known as a sur-reply, within 14 days of being served with the Authority's Reply.

## **II. Background**

4. Mr. Sharma is currently licensed with the Authority as a salesperson under license number S302815. His license expires on November 10, 2026 and has been inactive since November 1, 2024.
5. The following background information is drawn from three affidavits filed by the Authority. They are as follows:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> affidavit of Joel Jordan sworn September 4, 2025 ("the Jordan Affidavit"). Mr. Jordan is an Investigation Officer employed by the Authority;
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> affidavit of Hong Wong sworn September 4, 2025 ("the Wong Affidavit"). Mr. Wong is the Authority's Manager of Licensing; and
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> affidavit of Alan Mullen sworn September 10, 2025 ("the Mullen Affidavit"). Mr. Mullen is the Authority's Director of Licensing and Investigations.
6. The Authority began its investigation of Mr. Sharma in January 2024 when it was alleged by a motor dealer that had previously employed him that he had committed fraud and theft from the motor dealer and its customers. The matter has been referred to the RCMP for investigation and the motor dealer has commenced litigation against Mr. Sharma in connection with the matter. Both the RCMP investigation and the litigation are ongoing. A copy of the filed Notice of Civil Claim naming Mr. Sharma as a defendant is attached to the Jordan Affidavit.
7. After learning of the allegations, the Authority met with Mr. Sharma and thereafter determined that it was necessary to place conditions on his salesperson's license. By letter dated January 21, 2025, Mr. Wong advised Mr. Sharma that the following conditions

would be placed on his license effective immediately pursuant to section 6(3) of the *Salesperson Licensing Regulation* ("SLR"):

- a. Karan Sharma cannot be employed in the Finance Office of any Motor Dealer;
  - b. While employed by a Motor Dealer, Karan Sharma may not act as a loan broker as defined in the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act, or in any way act on behalf of consumers to obtain or facilitate financing, including a lease, in respect of a vehicle purchase; may not act as a loan broker as defined in the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act, or in any way act on behalf of consumers to obtain or facilitate financing, including a lease, in respect of a vehicle purchase;
  - c. Karan Sharma, while employed by a Motor Dealer, may not handle any consumer monies;
  - d. Karan Sharma, while employed by a Motor Dealer, must not be unsupervised while acting as a salesperson;
  - e. Any vehicle transactions facilitated by Karan Sharma must be reviewed by and signed off by a senior manager of the dealership who is not a relative of his;
  - f. Karan Sharma must, within two (2) days of the date of these conditions, provide a copy of these conditions to any Motor Dealer with whom he is currently employed;
  - g. Karan Sharma must notify the Authority prior to any change in his employment in any capacity with any Motor Dealer;
  - h. Karan Sharma, prior to commencing employment with a Motor Dealer, provide a copy of these conditions to the Motor Dealer; and
  - i. Karan Sharma, within two (2) days of commencing employment with a Motor Dealer, provide the Authority with proof, the sufficiency of which will be determined by the Authority, that he has complied with paragraph 7 [g] above.
8. At the time the conditions were imposed on Mr. Sharma's license, he was advised by the Authority of his right to seek reconsideration of that decision. There is no evidence that Mr. Sharma did so.

9. On July 30, 2025, Mr. Jordan and another Investigation Officer attended Biswas Automotive Services Ltd ("Biswas") on an unrelated investigation. Biswas is a motor dealer licensed by the Authority. While there, Mr. Jordan observed a person who he thought he recognized as Mr. Sharma although he could not recall his name. This person was observed to be sitting at a desk and working on a computer. Mr. Jordan approached the person and asked his name to which he replied, "Matt [unintelligible]". Mr. Jordan asked the person to spell their last name but they did not do so. Mr. Jordan asked the person for identification, but he refused to provide that. Mr. Jordan then turned away and began to speak briefly with another person in the office and when he turned around, the person he had previously recognized as Mr. Sharma had left the office.
10. Mr. Jordan approached the desk where the person he recognized as Mr. Sharma had been working and he observed two computer monitors. One displayed a credit application platform used by finance managers called Dealertrack that had been left open. The other monitor on the desk displayed an Excel spreadsheet that was populated with details of a consumer transaction. Mr. Jordan further observed food and an open alcoholic beverage on the desk.
11. As no one in the dealership was able to identify the person Mr. Jordan had recognized as Mr. Sharma, Mr. Jordan contacted the Authority office and a picture of Mr. Sharma was sent to him by text message. Mr. Jordan was able to confirm that the person who identified himself to him as "Matt" was in fact Mr. Sharma.
12. The next day on July 31, 2025, the Authority received an Employment Authorization from Biswas seeking to add Mr. Sharma as an employee. Mr. Wong responded to Biswas and advised them that the application was being reviewed and that Mr. Sharma was not authorized to work as a salesperson.
13. Mr. Mullen met with Mr. Sharma on August 6, 2025 and reminded him that he was not permitted to work as a salesperson without complying with the conditions on his license and without approval from the Authority. At that time, Mr. Sharma denied that he had been employed by Biswas.
14. On September 9, 2025, Mr. Mullen spoke with one of the owners of Biswas who confirmed that Mr. Sharma was employed by them as a salesperson working Monday to Friday and was in fact present at Biswas' business location that day.

### **III. Positions of the Parties – The Authority**

15. The Authority submits that based on the facts as set out previously, Mr. Sharma's salesperson license should be suspended on an interim basis until further order from the Registrar. The Authority argues that I am authorised to do so by sections 4(6) and 5 of the *Motor Dealer Act* and sections 6 and 7(2) of the SLR.

### **IV. Positions of the Parties – Mr. Sharma**

16. Mr. Sharma provided written submissions in response. In his submissions, Mr. Sharma denies the allegations of theft and fraud, saying that they flow from unproven workplace disputes and that the RCMP investigation against him has been dropped. He says that he accepted the conditions placed on his license in January 2025.

17. Mr. Sharma says that his purpose for being at Biswas on July 30, 2025 was to simply discuss possible future employment there with a friend and that he was not working as a salesperson. Despite this, he says he "panicked" when approached by Mr. Jordan and provided a false name. He says that the next day he took responsibility for this, admitted his error and apologized to the Authority.

18. Mr. Sharma says that an interim suspension is unnecessary and that the conditions already imposed are sufficient to ensure the protection of the public. He says he remains committed to complying with the conditions on his license.

### **V. The Law**

19. The SLR describes the various steps that must be taken for an individual to be licensed by the Authority as a salesperson. Sections 3 and 4 describe the application and renewal requirements while section 5 empowers the Authority to refuse to issue or renew a license. Section 6 authorizes the Authority to impose conditions on a license while section 7 authorizes the revocation or suspension of a license. More specifically, section 7(2) of the SLR authorizes the suspension of a salesperson license "if the authority considers, having regard to the conduct of the licensee, that it would not be in the public interest for the licensee to continue to be licensed.

20. It is important at the outset to acknowledge the serious nature of the relief sought by the Authority. As noted by the unanimous judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Scott v. College of Massage Therapists of British Columbia*, 2016 BCCA 180:

[41] The cases suggest that it must be always remembered that an interim suspension of the right to practice one's profession is an extraordinary remedy that ought to be used sparingly: *Dr. Larre v. College of Psychologists of British Columbia*, [2007 BCSC 416](#) (at para. [20](#), quoting with approval *Patton v. College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia*, [1996] B.C.J. No. 2864 (S.C.)).

21. In the AHN, the Authority alleges breaches of two provisions. First, it says that Mr. Sharma committed an offence on two occasions by supplying false or misleading information to Mr. Jordan and Mr. Mullen, while both were acting under the MDA, as provided by section 35(3)(a) of the MDA. Second, it says that Mr. Sharma contravened section 33(2)(a) of the MDAR by failing to act with honesty and integrity in the course of business, specifically by breaching the conditions of his salesperson license.
22. The approach to be taken where the Authority seeks an interim license suspension was described by then Registrar Christman in *Vehicle Sales Authority v. Best Import Auto Ltd.* 2017-BCRMD-008 ("*Best Import*"). While that decision dealt with an application to suspend a motor dealer's license as opposed to that of a salesperson, I am of the view that the reasoning at paragraph 16 applies equally here:

[16] While it was decided under the *Health Professions Act*, the BC Court of Appeal decision in *Scott v. College of Massage Therapists of British Columbia*, 2016 BCCA 180 provides guidance regarding interim suspensions. A review of that decision notes the following principles:

- (a) at this stage, I am not "trying" the facts. I am determining whether the evidence if believed true, indicates the public would be placed at risk of harm if Best Import continued to operate,
- (b) the test is whether a *prima facie* case has been made out in support of the Allegations,
- (c) the three main considerations are:
  - (i) the seriousness of the allegations,
  - (ii) what measures are currently in place to protect the public, and
  - (iii) the probability of harm,

- (d) in reviewing the evidence, I am to be mindful and consider its reliability, plausibility, internal and external consistency and any motivation, and
- (e) I am to balance the interests of Best Import to continue to operate with that of the public interest and protection of the public from harm. The public interest is paramount.

## **VI. Discussion**

23. Prior to addressing the factors set out in *Best Import, supra*, I will again note that my task here is not to try the facts of this matter. A full hearing of the allegations set out in the AHN will take place at a later date. I am reviewing the evidence which if believed to be true, would indicate that the public would be at risk of harm if Mr. Sharma continued to be licensed. I must consider whether a prima facie case has been made out in support of the allegations in the AHN.

### **a. Seriousness of the allegations**

24. I must first consider the seriousness of the allegations as set out in the AHN. The Authority has alleged two statutory contraventions by Mr. Sharma, one of which would constitute an offence if proven.

25. While the Authority refers in the AHN and in its submissions to allegations of fraud and theft, I note that those are the subject of separate, external proceedings – an RCMP investigation and a civil lawsuit. I am mindful of the fact that neither of these proceedings have been resolved and at this stage they are simply allegations.

26. Mr. Sharma argues that the decision in *Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia v. Salame* (20-11-012, April 1, 2024), relied upon by the Authority, is distinguishable insofar as in that case, the licensee had been charged with a criminal offence whereas he has not. I agree with this distinction and I remain mindful that the outstanding civil proceedings and RCMP investigation are unproven allegations and I will place the appropriate weight on that evidence in reaching my decision in this matter.

27. Turning to the AHN, an allegation that a licensee has supplied false or misleading information to a person acting under the MDA contrary to section 35(3) of that legislation is very serious. This is reflected by the legislature elevating such conduct to an offence which is punishable by a fine, imprisonment or both.
28. In a regulated profession, it is critically important that licensees provide accurate and truthful information to their regulatory body, as doing otherwise undermines the integrity of the profession and erodes public trust. Supplying false or misleading information can obstruct the regulator's ability to carry out its mandate to protect the public, ensure compliance with professional standards, and maintain accountability. Such conduct may also constitute professional misconduct, exposing the licensee to disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of their license. Ultimately, honesty and transparency are foundational to ethical practice and the proper functioning of any regulatory framework.
29. According to Mr. Jordan, Mr. Sharma misidentified himself and refused to provide his last name or identification. Mr. Sharma has admitted to this but he has not commented on what caused him to panic, misidentify himself and leave the dealership. This behaviour runs contrary to Mr. Sharma's contention that his attendance at Biswas on July 30 was for no other purpose than to discuss future employment opportunities. Mr. Sharma says that he took responsibility for this, admitted his error and apologized to the Authority but there is no evidence to support such a claim.
30. Further, Mr. Mullen says that he was told by Mr. Sharma that he was not employed by a motor dealer but this advice was contradicted by a co-owner of Biswas who advised Mr. Mullen that indeed Mr. Sharma is employed there. Mr. Sharma has not addressed this allegation in his submissions.
31. Similarly, allegations that a salesperson has failed to act with honesty and integrity by not adhering to the conditions on their license is also a serious matter. Section 33(2)(a) of the MDAR falls within the "Code of Conduct" which requires licensees to act with honesty and integrity in the course of business. A violation of this provision undermines the regulatory framework designed to protect consumers but it also reflects a direct contravention of a licensee's obligations under the MDA. It is expected that a salesperson will conduct themselves as required by law and that they will adhere to conditions imposed on them by their regulatory body.



32. While the evidence is unclear as to exactly what Mr. Sharma was doing when he was observed by Mr. Jordan at Biswas, one of the conditions of Mr. Sharma's license is that he is to provide the Authority with notice of any change in employment in any capacity with any motor dealer. Mr. Wong states that Biswas sought to add Mr. Sharma as an employee on July 31, 2025 but that was not approved. Mr. Mullen further states that Mr. Sharma advised him on August 6, 2025 that he had not been employed by a motor dealer but was subsequently told by Biswas on September 9, 2025 that he was employed there as a salesperson.

**b. Measures currently in place to protect the public**

33. Mr. Sharma's license is subject to conditions that have been in place since January 21, 2025. The imposition of these conditions was not challenged by Mr. Sharma and reconsideration was not sought. The conditions included notifying the Authority of any change in his employment and providing a copy of the conditions to any employer with proof of same being provided to the Authority.

34. Despite being observed at Biswas by Mr. Jordan and contrary to the confirmation provided to Mr. Mullen by one of Biswas' owners that it had employed him as a salesperson, Mr. Sharma has maintained his position that he is not employed by Biswas.

**c. The probability of harm**

35. I find that there is sufficient evidence, if believed, of the probability of harm if Mr. Sharma continues to be licensed pending the outcome of the full hearing in this matter. Mr. Sharma has admitted to misleading Mr. Jordan and he has provided no explanation as to why. Despite the conditions on his license and contrary to Mr. Sharma's advice to Mr. Mullen, Biswas has advised Mr. Mullen that Mr. Sharma is in fact employed there as a salesperson. Mr. Sharma has not addressed this in his submissions.

36. I find that the evidence of the Authority is reliable, plausible and consistent and I am mindful of balancing Mr. Sharma's interest in obtaining employment as a salesperson with the public interest and the need to ensure that the public is protected from harm. As noted in *Best Import*, the public interest is paramount.

## **VII. Summary**

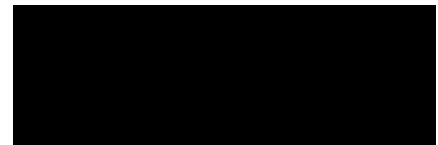
37. Based on the aforementioned, I order that Mr. Sharma's salesperson license numbered 302815 is suspended pursuant to section 7 of the SLR until further order of the Registrar. The suspension of Mr. Sharma's license takes effect on delivery of this decision.

## **VIII. Right of Review of Decision**

38. Sections 26.11 and 26.12 of the MDA provide that a person may request the Registrar to reconsider a determination within 30 days of receiving the later of the determination or any written reasons respecting the determination. A Request for Reconsideration of this decision must be submitted in writing may be filed electronically to [hearings@vsabc.ca](mailto:hearings@vsabc.ca) or by mail to the Authority.

39. This decision may also be reviewed by petition to the BC Supreme Court pursuant to the *Judicial Review Procedure Act* within 60 days of receiving this decision: section 7.1 of the MDA and section 57 of *the Administrative Tribunals Act*.

Signed this 29th day of September 2025  
"Original signed"

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Registrar.

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Patrick Poyner  
Registrar of Motor Dealers