

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



## Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

### Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Regulation and Licensing from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Regulation and Licensing data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name as it appears on the order.*
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup." The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at: <http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscqa>.
- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

**By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.**

**Correcting information on the DRL website:** An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact the webmaster at [web@drl.state.wi.gov](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.gov)

-----  
IN THE MATTER OF :  
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

THOMAS E. STEINMETZ, M.D.,                   **FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**  
RESPONDENT.                                   98 MED 351  
                                                          LS9907223MED

-----  
The parties to this action for the purposes of § 227.53, Wis. Stats., are:

*Thomas E. Steinmetz, M.D.*  
*W202-N11851 Merkel Drive*  
*Germantown, WI 53022*

*Wisconsin Medical Examining Board*  
*P.O. Box 8935*  
*Madison, WI 53708-8935*

*Department of Regulation and Licensing*  
*Division of Enforcement*  
*P.O. Box 8935*  
*Madison, WI 53708-8935*

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Thomas E. Steinmetz, M.D. (dob 12-1-43) is and was at all times relevant to the facts set forth herein a physician and surgeon licensed in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license #18431, first granted on 7-11-73. Respondent is a family practitioner, and is board certified in that specialty.
2. In the spring of 1995, respondent entered marital counseling with a licensed social worker. At some point, the social worker and respondent discussed whether respondent suffered from depression. Respondent then determined to take Zoloft®, an antidepressant. Respondent did not obtain an evaluation from another physician before making this decision, although the social worker suggested that he consult with another physician.
3. From May 12, 1995 to September 11, 1996 respondent wrote a series of 18 prescription orders for Zoloft®, using the name of a family member as the patient. Respondent received the drug himself directly from the pharmacy, which profiled them in the family member's name. Respondent consumed the drug himself.
4. The family member states she did not know that these prescriptions were being prescribed in her name and then received by the respondent. The family member also states she has never been diagnosed with depression or prescribed Zoloft®. The family member states that she first learned of respondent's conduct when she was having a prescription filled at the pharmacy, and the pharmacist mentioned it, in late September, 1996.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- A. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to §448.02(3), Wis. Stats. and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to §227.44(5), Wis. Stats.
- B. The conduct described in paragraph 3 above, violated §450.11(1) and (7)(a), (c), and (e), Wis. Stats., and § Med 10.02(2)(m) and (z), Wis. Adm. Code. Such conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of the Code and statutes.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Thomas E. Steinmetz, M.D., is REPRIMANDED for his unprofessional conduct in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that respondent shall pay the costs of investigating and prosecuting this matter in the amount of \$200.00, within 30 days of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to §448.02(4), Wis. Stats., if the Board determines that there is probable cause to believe that respondent has violated any term of this Final Decision and Order, the Board may order that the license and registration of respondent be summarily suspended pending investigation of the alleged violation.

Dated this July 22, 1999.

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD, by:

by: Ronald Grossman, M.D.

a member of the Board