

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE SOCIAL WORKER SECTION  
EXAMINING BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

HEATHER R MORRIS, CSW,  
RESPONDENT.

Case No. LS9912092SOC

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
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The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. §227.53 are:

*Heather R. Morris, CSW  
1626 Onalaska Ave.  
La Crosse, WI 54603*

*Social Worker Section  
Examining Board of Social Workers,  
Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors  
PO Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935*

*Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Division of Enforcement  
PO 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 in this matter, subject to the approval of the Social Worker Section. The Section has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Heather R. Morris, Respondent, date of birth August 24, 1971, is currently certified as a social worker in the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to certificate number 4443, which was first granted on February 15, 1995.
2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 1626 Onalaska Ave., La Crosse, WI 54603.

3. At the time Respondent applied for social work certification, "grandfathering" provisions in Wis. Adm. Code § SFC 3.02 allowed for certification without examination if the applicant, among other things:

a. Applied for certification as a certified social worker on or before

May 31, 1995.

b. Had engaged in 400 hours of the practice of social work in any year prior to May 1, 1993.

c. Graduated with a bachelor's degree, with any major, from an accredited college or university.

4. Respondent received a bachelors degree in sociology from Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota, which was an accredited university, in August of 1994.

5. From May 1994 to August 1994 Respondent completed an internship with La Cross County Human Services Department. Respondent did not engage in any practice of social work prior to May 1, 1993.

6. On January 5, 1995, Respondent completed an application for certification as a social worker, which she signed under oath and submitted to the Section. Immediately above Respondent's signature on the application, the form states:

I state that I am the person referred to on this application and that all the answers set forth are each and all strictly true in every respect. I understand that false or forged statements made in connection with this application may be grounds for revocation of my credential. I also understand that if I am issued a credential, failure to comply with the laws or rules of either the Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors or the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing will be cause for disciplinary action. (emphasis added)

7. On page 3 of the application form, Respondent checked the box indicating:

I hold a bachelor's degree, from an institution which was accredited at the time I graduated, and was engaged in social work for a minimum of 400 hours in a one (1) year period or 500 hours in an eighteen (18) month period prior to May 1, 1993. (emphasis added)

8. In the area on the application form, which begins "I have been engaged or employed in social work at the following:" Respondent indicated that she worked as a social worker intern at LaCrosse County Social Services. She "whited out" the dates and hours originally written in the spaces for "Dates to-from:" and "Hrs/Wk:" and wrote in "8-92 - 2-93" and 20-40 respectively, indicating that the dates of her internship were from August, 1992 to February, 1993.

9. At the time Respondent completed the application, Respondent knew that she had not engaged in social work prior to May 1, 1993 and knew that the dates and hours she inserted for her internship at LaCrosse County Social Services were false.

10. Because Respondent had not actually engaged in 400 hours of the practice of social work in any year prior to May 1, 1993, Respondent was not eligible for social work certification without examination pursuant to Wis. Adm. Code § SFC 3.02.

11. Respondent did not qualify for certification as a social worker under any standard in existence in January and February of 1995.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to §457.26(2), Stats.

2. The Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors has authority to enter into this stipulated resolution pursuant to §227.44(5), Stats.

3. Respondent did not meet the qualifications for certification as a social worker in effect in January and February of 1995 and should not have been certified as a social worker.

4. Respondent by having used fraud or deception in her application for a certificate in stating that she had engaged in 400 hours of social work prior to May 1, 1993 when she had not done so, has committed unprofessional conduct, as defined by Wis. Adm. Code §SFC 20.02(4), and is subject to discipline pursuant to §457.26(2)(f), Stats.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the certificate of Heather R. Morris, CSW, to practice as a social worker in the state of Wisconsin is hereby REVOKED, effective immediately.

The rights of a party aggrieved by this Decision to petition the Board for rehearing and to petition for judicial review are set forth on the attached "Notice of Appeal Information".

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 9th day of December, 1999.

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Cornelia Gordon-Hempe

Chairperson

Social Worker Section