

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE SOCIAL WORKER SECTION  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING  
AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	LS0403034SOC
SUSAN L. ALECKSON, C.S.W.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

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

Susan L. Aleckson, C.S.W.  
4445 Mormon Coulee Road # 212  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Social Worker Section  
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling  
and Social Work 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 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. Susan L. Aleckson, C.S.W., Respondent, date of birth April 24, 1967, was granted a social worker training certificate by the Social Worker Section on April 17, 2003, certificate number 686. This non-renewable certificate allows Respondent to use the title “social worker” for up to 24 months while seeking to attain social worker degree equivalency pursuant to § 457.09(4), Stats.

2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is N5220 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, West Salem, WI 54669. The Division of Enforcement has obtained information that Respondent’s current address is 4445 Mormon Coulee Road #212, LaCrosse, WI 54601.

3. Since approximately 1998, Respondent and her spouse served as licensed foster parents.

4. From February 2003 until her employment was terminated in November 2003, Respondent was also employed by LaCrosse County Human Services as a social worker in the Family and Children’s Unit in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Respondent’s duties included supervising foster families.

5. Respondent and her spouse served as foster parents to a juvenile male, Mr. A (DOB 5/4/86), beginning in 1999, when he was 13 years of age, until November 2003, when he was 17 years of age. Mr. A resided with Respondent and her

spouse at their residences, first in LaCrescent, Minnesota, and then in West Salem, Wisconsin.

6. Respondent's spouse asserts that he allowed Respondent to make most of the decisions regarding Mr. A because her spouse trusted Respondent's expertise and knowledge as a social worker.

7. Beginning in the winter of 2002-2003, when Mr. A was sixteen years of age, until approximately October 2003, Respondent engaged in sexual contact, including sexual intercourse, with Mr. A on many occasions. Respondent's spouse was unaware of this conduct.

8. Respondent told Mr. A not to tell anyone about their sexual contact because she would lose her job and then she would probably commit suicide.

9. In September 2003, Respondent separated from her spouse and moved to an apartment on Mormon Coulee Road in LaCrosse. At that time, Respondent determined it would be best for Mr. A if he lived with Respondent.

10. A friend convinced Mr. A to report to authorities that Respondent had been having sexual contact with Mr. A. Because Respondent was an employee of La Crosse County Human Services, an independent investigation of child abuse was conducted by Trempealeau County Department of Social Services. That investigation substantiated that Respondent had sexual intercourse and contact with Mr. A while he was sixteen and seventeen years old. The report concluded:

"While giving consent, [Mr. A] did not have the ability to deny consent for fear of retaliation by Respondent due to her continual control of his relationship with others, [Mr. A]'s knowledge that [Respondent] worked directly with his case worker and the possibility of his being moved from the foster home at her request."

11. As a result of Respondent's conduct, on December 4, 2003, Respondent was charged and convicted in La Crosse County Wisconsin Circuit Court, case number 2003CM001742, with two counts of violating § 948.09, Stats. (Sex with Child Age 16 or Older), a Class A misdemeanor. Respondent was given a stayed sentence and placed on three years probation. Conditions included:

- a. Jail time: six months, with Huber privileges
- b. Costs: \$130 court assessments
- c. Prohibitions: No contact with victim
- d. Other:

Continue with present counseling  
Complete any other counseling deemed appropriate by probation officer  
Restitution for the damages done to victim's property  
Pay 10% restitution surcharge  
Pay Crime Lab and Drug Assessment fee  
Pay DOC Supervision fees

12. § 948.09, Stats. (Sex with Child Age 16 or Older) is an offense the circumstances of which substantially relate to Respondent's practice of social work under her certificate.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

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

3. Respondent, by having violated a law, the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice under her credential, has engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(2) and is subject to discipline pursuant to § 457.26(2)(f), Stats.

4. Respondent, by having been convicted of offenses, the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of social work, is subject to discipline pursuant to § 457.26(2)(b), Stats.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The SURRENDER by Susan L. Aleckson, C.S.W., Respondent, of her Wisconsin social worker training certificate is hereby ACCEPTED, effective immediately.
2. Respondent shall, within 60 days of the date of this Order, pay the costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$ 360.00 to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, pursuant to § 440.22(2), Stats.
3. Payment shall be mailed or delivered to:

Department Monitor  
Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Division of Enforcement  
1400 East Washington Ave.  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935  
Fax: (608) 266-2264  
Telephone: (608) 267-3817

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

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2004.

George J. Kamps, L.C.S.W.  
Chairperson  
Social Worker Section