

# 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	:	
	:	LS0409291SOC
SHEILA M. REICHERT, 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:

Sheila M. Reichert, C.S.W.  
7630 Deer Lane  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Social Worker Section  
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling  
& Social Work Examining Board  
PO 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 Social Worker Section. The Section has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Section adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sheila M. Reichert, C.S.W., Respondent, date of birth October 4, 1967, is certified by the Social Worker Section as a social worker in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to certificate number 7095, which was first granted August 10, 1999.
2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 7630 Deer Lane, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.
3. During the events of this matter, which occurred in the summer and fall of 2003, prior to September 18, Respondent was employed as a social worker in central Wisconsin by PATH (Professional Association of Treatment Homes), a treatment foster care agency. Respondent's job duties included visiting foster homes licensed by PATH and interacting with foster parents and foster children.
4. During that period of time, Respondent was having personal relationship difficulties. After a brief marriage which included merged families from prior relationships, Respondent and her then spouse filed for divorce in July 2002 and the divorce was granted in December 2002. Respondent and her ex-spouse continued a relationship after the divorce which caused her stress and confusion, which resulted in depression and anxiety.

5. Respondent had a high caseload. She had extensive professional contacts with one foster mother because there were six treatment level (4 exceptional level and 2 intensive level) foster children in that home. Respondent acknowledges that she crossed professional boundaries by becoming too friendly with that foster mother and in interactions with other foster parents. Respondent attributes that behavior to her emotional condition at that time. Among other things:

- a. Respondent discussed her personal relationship issues and problems with the foster mother.
- b. On one occasion while charting at the kitchen table at the foster home after completing her last visit of the day, Respondent accepted an alcoholic beverage from the foster mother and drank it.
- c. Two of the foster mother's biological children were having LASIX corrective eye surgery and the foster mother could receive a discount of the costs if a third person were also having the surgery. Respondent agreed to be the third person and they went together and had the surgery. The foster mother paid for all three surgeries with her credit card. Respondent then applied for and received a loan from a financial institution and repaid the foster parent.
- d. On another occasion, the foster mother drove Respondent to and from a facility where Respondent had outpatient surgery.
- e. A foster father would sometimes pick up Respondent's son from school and provide him child care after school.
- f. The foster mother baby-sat Respondent's child on two occasions while Respondent attended night classes. On September 17, 2003, Respondent became very upset in the presence of the foster mother and another foster mother because neither one would baby-sit Respondent's son while she attended school.

6. From January 16 through June 30, 2003, Respondent sought psychotherapy for depression and anxiety secondary to her recent divorce. Respondent returned to therapy October 6, 2003 and has continued in that therapy to the present, on an as-needed basis. The therapist does not believe Respondent's current condition interferes with her ability to function as a social worker.

7. Since November 17, 2003, Respondent has been employed as a social worker by a county health and human services department performing coordination of the Children Come First program and Coordinated Service Teams. Her employment evaluations in that position have indicated satisfactory performance in all categories, which is the highest ranking available.

8. In the fall of 2003, Respondent enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Collaborative MSSW Program. During the Spring 2004 semester, Respondent took *Ethical Issues in Contemporary Social Work*, a three credit course in that program, and received a grade of "A."

#### 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., and authority to enter into this stipulated resolution pursuant to § 227.44(5), Stats.

2. Respondent's conduct, as set out above, constitutes failure to avoid dual relationships, which is unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02 (13) and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to § 457.26(2)(f), Stats.

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Respondent, Sheila M. Reichert, C.S.W., is hereby Reprimanded for the above conduct.

2. Within 90 days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall take and complete 6 hours of continuing education on the subject of appropriate professional boundaries between social workers and clients, which course or courses shall first be approved by the Section, or its designee. Respondent is prohibited from applying these credits toward satisfaction of the continuing education required during the July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2005 registration biennium.

3. Respondent shall provide the Section with proof of satisfactory completion of the continuing education within 30 days of completion.

4. Respondent shall, within 120 days of the date of this Order, pay to the Department of Regulation and Licensing the costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$300.00 pursuant to § 440.22(2), Stats.

5. All requests, notifications and payment shall be mailed, faxed 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

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2004.

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