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

IN THE MATTER OF THE :
APPLICATION OF :
 :
 :
 JULIE L. KUSTA, :
 APPLICANT :
 :

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

The parties in this matter under § 227.44, Wis. Stats. and s. RL 1.04, Wis. Admin. Code, and for purposes of review under § 227.53, Wis. Stats., are:

Julie L. Kusta
N113 W16278 Sylvan Circle Unit C
Germantown, WI 53022

Professional Counseling Section
1400 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Julie L. Kusta filed an application for a professional counselor license on or about May 23, 2006. The Professional Counselor Section reviewed her application at its meeting on July 24, 2006, and denied her application for a professional counselor license. A Notice of Denial was sent to Ms. Kusta on or about August 18, 2006. Ms. Kusta subsequently requested a hearing on her denial.

A hearing in the above-captioned matter was held on October 30, 2006, before the Professional Counseling Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board. Ms. Kusta appeared in person, *pro se*.

The Professional Counseling Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board, having held a hearing on the application for a professional counselor license for Julie L. Kusta, and having considered the entire record in this matter, makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Julie L. Kusta applied for a professional counselor license on or about July 24, 2006.
2. One of the requirements in Wisconsin for the professional counselor license is the completion of a master's or doctoral degree in professional counseling. Having an equivalent academic program to professional counseling is also permitted. Equivalent programs must include, *inter alia*, a counseling theory course.
3. Ms. Kusta has not successfully completed the required coursework, namely a counseling theory course.
4. Under ss. 457.12 and 457.13, Wis. Stats., applicants for a professional counselor license must complete 3000 hours of supervised professional counseling practice while holding a professional counselor training license.
5. Ms. Kusta has never held a professional counseling training license in Wisconsin. She therefore has no post-graduate professional counseling practice hours which are essential for obtaining a professional counselor license.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Professional Counseling Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to §§ 15.405 (7c) (c) and 457.12, Wis. Stats.
2. Ms. Kusta, by not having completed the requirements as set forth in §§ 457.12 and 457.13, Wis. Stats., has not met the criteria for a professional counselor license.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application of Julie Kusta for a professional counselor license is **DENIED**.

OPINION

Section 457.12, Wis. Stats., sets forth the criteria for licensure as a professional counselor in Wisconsin. Among the requirements for licensure as found in s. 457.12 (2), Wis. Stats., is that an applicant must have either received a master's or doctorate degree in professional counseling or its equivalent from a program approved by the Professional Counseling Section (Section). An academic program is the equivalent of a master's degree in professional counseling if it meets the criteria set forth in s. MPSW 14.01, Wis. Admin. Code, including at least three (3) semester hours or four (4) quarter hours academic credit in a counseling theory course, and at least one course of at least three (3) semester hours or four (4) quarter hours academic credit in six defined subject areas, with a minimum of 42 semester hours or 63 quarter hours of academic credit in counseling. Additionally, under s. RL 1.08 (4), Wis. Admin. Code, an applicant has the burden of proof to show the credentialing authority, in this case, the Professional Counseling Section, that he has met the eligibility requirements for the credential.

Ms. Kusta has failed to meet her burden. One of the requirements for obtaining the professional counselor license is the completion of a master's or doctoral degree in professional counseling or an acceptable equivalent program. In addition, applicants for a professional counseling license must demonstrate that they have completed the required 3000 hours of post-graduate supervised practice. Ms. Kusta has not completed the essential coursework in order to satisfy the equivalency requirements, including, a counseling theory course, nor has she completed the supervised practice requirement. In reviewing Ms. Kusta's application again, the Section determined that she had not successfully met those criteria and, as a result, has not met the requirements for the professional counselor license. Her application for the professional counselor license has therefore been denied.

APPEAL INFORMATION

The applicant's right to request rehearing and for judicial review are set forth in the enclosed "Notice of Appeal

Information".

Dated this 30th day of October, 2006, at Madison, Wisconsin.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SECTION

Susan Putra, P.C.
Chairperson