

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
GARY L. KEEGSTRA, L.P.C., : LS0701307CPC
RESPONDENT. :

Division of Enforcement Case # 06 CPC 014

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Gary L. Keegstra, L.P.C.
c/o St. Felix Friary
N8477 CTH WW
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Professional Counselor Section
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling
and Social Work Examining Board
Department of Regulation & Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

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 Professional Counselor Section. The Section has reviewed the attached Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Gary L. Keegstra, L.P.C., (DOB 01/09/1957) is duly licensed as a professional counselor in the state of Wisconsin (license # 125-1945). This license was first granted on July 28, 1995.
2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Professional Counselor Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board is c/o St. Felix Friary, N8477 CTH WW, Mt. Calvary, WI 53057.

3. Respondent is a Roman Catholic priest in addition to being a licensed professional counselor.
4. Respondent is diagnosed with Bipolar II disorder, impulse Control Disorder NOS, Cognitive Disorder NOS, and Narcissistic Personality Disorder. He has a history of compulsive spending and debt.
5. Client E.S. began seeing Respondent for professional counseling in 1997. She saw Respondent approximately two times per month until 2002, and paid Respondent \$50 per session. Respondent admits that he provided counseling services to E.S. but states that after the first two professional counseling sessions, he began seeing E.S. for religious counseling in his capacity as her priest. He states that he accepted \$50 per counseling session as a gift/donation.
6. Respondent and E.S. developed a personal relationship. In the course of that relationship:
 - (a) In 1998, Respondent and E.S. attempted to jointly purchase a condominium (the attempt failed because the bank would not lend credit to Respondent).
 - (b) On two occasions in 1998, Respondent and E.S. jointly went to Santa Barbara, California, where Respondent used to live. E.S. paid for all expenses relating to the trips.
 - (c) In 1998, Respondent and E.S. vacationed together in Hawaii. E.S. paid for all expenses relating to the trip.
 - (d) In 1999, Respondent and E.S. again went to Santa Barbara, California. E.S. paid for all expenses relating to the trip.
 - (e) In 1999, Respondent purchased a time share at Christmas Mountain in Wisconsin. E.S. contributed to the purchase.
 - (f) In 2001, Respondent moved into E.S.'s home.
 - (g) Throughout their relationship, Respondent accepted financial gifts from E.S., including cash, and payments of his debt.
 - (h) Respondent misrepresented himself to healthcare professionals as E.S.'s nephew.
7. E.S. died on November 6, 2004.
8. Respondent attended inpatient treatment from May 18, 2005 to January 10, 2006, relating to his spending compulsion and his dual relationship with E.S. Boundary issues were a main focus of this treatment. At the conclusion of treatment, Respondent's treaters noted that he "struggled with accountability" for his boundary violations and he was still unwilling to report himself to the Professional Counselor Section.
9. Respondent self-reported his boundary violations to the Section on March 14, 2006. At the time he was being sued by E.S.'s estate for \$300,000 for amounts he depleted the estate. A complaint was filed with the Department by the personal representative of E.S.'s estate on June 7, 2006.
10. In Respondent's self-report, he states that he did not consider his relationship with E.S. to be a dual relationship, because he believed he was counseling her as a priest. However he also acknowledges that he should not have two sets of standards in his counseling practice (one for counseling as a priest and one for counseling as a licensed professional counselor).
11. In his July 31, 2006 letter to the Department, Respondent continued to deny culpability for his actions with respect to E.S. and claimed that the personal representative of her estate was acting out of "jealousy, envy and greed."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Professional Counselors Section has jurisdiction to act in this matter, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation and Order, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).
2. The conduct described in paragraphs 6 and 8-11 above constitutes a violation of Wisconsin Administrative Code § MPSW 20.02(13) and (22), and is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f) and (h).

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The stipulation of the parties is approved.
2. The Professional Counselors Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Examining Board accepts the surrender of the license of Gary L. Keegstra, L.P.C. (license # 125-1945), to practice as a licensed professional counselor in the State of Wisconsin.
3. In the event that Mr. Keegstra re-applies for Wisconsin licensure as a licensed professional counselor in the future, the Section may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing.
4. Respondent shall pay costs of Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900.00) to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, within ninety (90) days of this Order.
5. This Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 30th day of January, 2007.

Professional Counselors Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board

By: Evelyn Pumphrey
A Member of the Section

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

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 : STIPULATION
GARY L. KEEGSTRA, L.P.C., : LS# _____
RESPONDENT. :

Division of Enforcement Case # 06 CPC 014

Gary L. Keegstra, L.P.C., personally on his own behalf and Jeanette Lytle, attorney for the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, stipulate:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of Respondent's licensure by the Division of Enforcement (case # 06 CPC 014). Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by stipulation.
2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation he voluntarily and knowingly waives his rights, including: the right to a hearing on the allegations against him, at which time the state has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to call witnesses on his behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena; the right to testify himself; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to him under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and any other provisions of state or federal law.
3. Respondent has been provided an opportunity to obtain the advice of legal counsel prior to signing this stipulation.
4. Respondent agrees to voluntarily surrender his license to practice as a professional counselor in the State of Wisconsin. Respondent agrees that he will not reapply for Wisconsin licensure as a professional counselor at any time in the future. In the event that Respondent does in fact apply for Wisconsin licensure as a professional counselor, the Board may deny that application based upon this stipulation, without further notice or hearing, and Respondent hereby expressly waives all rights to a hearing on any such denial or limitation.
5. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Professional Counselor Section. The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Section's order, if adopted in the form as attached.
6. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Section, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall be returned to the Division of Enforcement for further proceedings. In the event that this Stipulation is not accepted by the Section, the parties agree not to contend that the Section has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by consideration of this attempted resolution.
7. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Enforcement and any member of the Professional Counselor Section ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Section in open or closed session, without the presence of the Respondent or his attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Section may have in connection with the Section's deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such Section advisor may vote on whether the Section should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

8. Respondent is informed that should the Section adopt this Stipulation, the Section's final decision and order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

9. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending the Section adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Gary L. Keegstra, L.P.C.
c/o St. Felix Friary
N8477 CTH WW
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

Date

Jeanette Lytle, Attorney
Division of Enforcement
Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Date