

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
KRISTIN R. BRIGHTY, :
RESPONDENT. : ORDER 0001235

[Division of Enforcement Case #11 RSA 040]

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

Kristin R. Brighty
3322 S. Moorland Road
New Berlin, WI 53151

Division of Enforcement
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). The Department has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Kristin R. Brighty (“Respondent”) was born on February 18, 1974 and is licensed as a Substance Abuse Counselor in the State of Wisconsin (license #15695-131). This license was first granted on July 11, 2011.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services is 3322 S. Moorland Rd., New Berlin, Wisconsin.

3. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent worked as a psychotherapist at Bridge Halfway House (Bridge), located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bridge is a part of

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. and is contracted with the Department of Corrections and Department of Health Services to provide halfway house services, drug treatment therapy and social work services.

4. From February 2010 to May 2010, Client J.S. resided at Bridge. Client J.S. was originally assigned to another counselor, but was later transferred to Respondent in late March.

5. Sometime after March 2010, Respondent and Client J.S. began a sexual relationship. In October 2010, Respondent and Client J.S. married in DeKalb County, Illinois.

6. Throughout the relationship, Respondent understood that her relationship with Client J.S. was prohibited by both her employer and rules of the profession. Respondent warned Client J.S. that he cannot disclose their relationship to others, for fear of her job.

7. During her relationship with Client J.S., Respondent falsified Client J.S.'s Certificate of Completion from Bridge, stating that he completed phases 2 and 3 of the programming when he in fact did not. Respondent also did not report a number of Client J.S.'s probation violations.

8. On September 1, 2011, Client J.S. reported the relationship and marriage to Respondent's employer. Respondent initially denied the allegations, but eventually admitted to them in a letter addressed to her employer on September 5, 2011.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.88 and has authority to enter into this stipulated resolution of this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. The conduct described above constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § RL 164.01(2)(m) and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The certificate of Kristin R. Brighty to practice as a substance abuse counselor in the State of Wisconsin (license #15695-131) is **REVOKED**.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

2. Respondent shall, within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400.00). Payment shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, and mailed to:

Department Monitor
Division of Enforcement
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817
Fax (608) 266-2264

3. This Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

By 
Michael J. Berndt, General Counsel
On behalf of the Department

12/1/11
Date