

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
BERNADETTE MILLER,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER 0001569

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Division of Enforcement Case No. 12SOC014

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

Bernadette Miller  
W1031 Spleas Skoney Road  
East Troy, WI 53120

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

Social Worker Section  
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board  
Wisconsin 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 and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board ("Section"). The Section has reviewed the attached Stipulation and considered it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Bernadette Miller ("Respondent"), date of birth August 29, 1958, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state Wisconsin pursuant to license number 133-123. This license was first granted on August 3, 1993.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department of Safety and Professional Services ("Department") is W1031 Spleas Skoney Road, East Troy, WI, 53120.

3. On February 25, 2011, Respondent renewed her Licensed Clinical Social Worker credential in the state of Wisconsin. During the continuing education portion of the renewal application, Respondent certified the following statement:

"I have completed 30 credit hours of continuing education in approved programs as provided in section MPSW 8.02, Wisconsin Administrative Code, between March 1, 2009 and February 28, 2011. I have or will have evidence of this which I will furnish to the Board upon request."

4. In July 2011, the Department conducted a continuing education audit for the 2009-2011 credentialing period on behalf of the Section. Respondent was selected to participate in and comply with this audit.

5. On August 4, 2011, in response to the Department's request that she complete an attendance table for the continuing education hours ("CEHs") she completed during the 2009-2011 credentialing period and submit proof of completion, Respondent replied:

"This letter is in response to the social work audit. I do not have access to any of the documentation that supports my completion of the continuing education requirement for the 2009-2011 biennium."

6. In an email sent on August 24, 2011, Respondent further revealed that she no longer had access to the CEHs earned between March 1, 2009 and February 28, 2011 due to a malfunctioning personal computer and had exhausted all available options to produce or recreate the required documentation.

7. Between August 1, 2011 and March 19, 2012, Respondent completed the following courses, totaling 31.25 Section-approved CEHs:

- a. "Co-occurring Disorders – Substance-Related and Mental Disorders" (Self-Study, 5.0 CEHs)
- b. "Aging Under the Microscope: A Biological Quest" (Self-Study, 3.0 CEHs)
- c. "Childhood Sexual Abuse" (Self-Study, 2.0 CEHs)
- d. "Strategies from Neuroscience that Improve Treatment Outcomes: Changing the Brain" (Interactive Internet, 1.5 CEHs)
- e. "Making Relationships Work" (Interactive Internet, 2.0 CEHs)
- f. "The Spectrum of Trauma" (Interactive Internet, 6.25 CEHs)
- g. "Antidepressants: What You Need to Know to Best Serve Your Clients" (Interactive Internet, 1.5 CEHs)
- h. "Contemporary Professional Boundaries and Ethics" (In Person, 4.0 CEHs)
- i. "Divorce and Difficult Personalities: Bringing Legal & Mental Health Professionals Together" (In Person, 6.0 CEHs)

8. The Department has received all certificates of attendance and/or completion for the courses listed above. Respondent is now in compliance with the CEH requirements for the 2009-2011 credentialing period.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The 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. Respondent, by reporting on her renewal application that she completed 30 CEHs during the 2009-2011 credentialing period and would furnish evidence of these hours upon request, when in fact she did not, engaged in unprofessional conduct pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(4) and is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2).

### ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The Stipulation of the parties is approved.
2. Bernadette Miller is hereby REPRIMANDED for the above conduct.
3. Respondent shall not use any of the courses listed in Findings of Fact paragraph 7 to satisfy the CEH requirements for the 2011-2013 credentialing period.
4. Within 60 days of this Order, Respondent shall pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of ninety dollars (\$90.00). Payment shall be made to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and mailed to the following address:

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

5. Violation of any terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered, the Respondent's license (no. 133-123) may, in the discretion of the board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs.

6. This Order shall become effective on the date of its signing.

SOCIAL WORKER SECTION OF THE MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL  
COUNSELING & SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

By: Eric Olin  
A Member of the Section

5/17/2012  
Date