

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDING AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
SYDNEY A. VAN SPLUNDER,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	<u>ORDER 0002067</u>

[Division of Enforcement Case #10 SOC 043]

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

Sydney A. Van Splunder
330 S. Grace Street, Apt. #1
Sparta, WI 54656

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

Social Worker Section
Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional
Counseling and Social Work Examining Board
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 considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sydney A. Van Splunder, a.k.a. Sydney A. Whaley, ("Respondent") was born on September 7, 1962 and is licensed as a Social Worker in the State of Wisconsin (license #8714-120). This license was first granted on November 26, 2004 and is current through February 28, 2013.
2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board is 330 South Grace Street, Apartment #1, Sparta, Wisconsin.
3. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections at the Jackson Correctional Institution as a social worker, providing services to inmates and those under supervision.
4. In March 2010, Respondent and her husband of eighteen years divorced. Respondent considered the divorce a "life crisis" that caused her to become depressed, resulting in a significant amount of weight loss. Respondent stated that her depressed state and emotional and physical changes made her vulnerable to increased attention from inmates.
5. Around this time, Respondent befriended Inmate J.O. and communicated with him through telephone and letters. Some time after Respondent befriended Inmate J.O., Respondent agreed to purchase a mobile phone for J.O. and mailed it to J.O.'s cousin. Respondent also bought and delivered tobacco products to J.O.
6. On December 21, 2010, Respondent was convicted of one count of Deliver Illegal Articles to Inmate, a class I felony, in Dodge County.
7. On October 7, 2011, Respondent was convicted of one count of Deliver Illegal Articles to Inmate, a class I felony, in Jackson County.
8. On March 31, 2012, Respondent completed a 3.5 hour, one-on-one, face-to-face consultation with Dr. G.S., a Section-approved ethics expert. The consultation was tailored to thoroughly examine ethical issues pertaining to social work, including boundaries.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2), and is authorized 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 § MPSW 20.02(13) and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

3. The conduct described above constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(2) and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The license of Sydney A. Van Splunder to practice social work (#8714-120) is **SUSPENDED** for a period of TWELVE (12) MONTHS from the date of this Order. During this period of suspension, Respondent is prohibited from providing social work services. At the end of the twelve month period, Respondent's suspension shall terminate automatically.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

2. Respondent shall, within nine (9) months from the date of this Order, pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00). 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. Violation of any of the 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 Section in its discretion may 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 pay the costs as set forth above, the Respondent's license (#8714-120) may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be **SUSPENDED**, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has paid costs.

4. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

**Social Worker Section
Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional
Counseling and Social Work Examining Board**

By:


A member of the Section 

9/19/12
Date