

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 DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

ANN M. THOMPSON,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
:

0002483

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 13 RSA 002

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

Ann M. Thompson
1532 N. 1st Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

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

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
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 disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin 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, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Ann M. Thompson, (dob March 28, 1979), is certified in the State of Wisconsin as a substance abuse counselor, having certificate number 15470-131, first issued on January 5, 2009, and current through February 28, 2015. Respondent is also licensed as a professional counselor, having license number 4920-125, first issued on October 24, 2012, and current through February 28, 2015. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1532 N. 1st Avenue, Wausau, Wisconsin 54401.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was working as a case manager at North Central Health Care in Wausau, Wisconsin.

3. Respondent provided case management services to Client A for approximately seven years. Client A had chronic mental health disorders, including manic episodes and threats to commit suicide. Respondent was the only case manager with whom Client A would work.

4. On December 4, 2012, Client A informed the Senior Executive at North Central Health Care that Respondent had contact with him of a personal and sexual nature.

5. Respondent's employer investigated the allegations and placed Respondent on immediate suspension until the investigation was completed.

6. Client A recanted his allegation that Respondent had sexual contact with him.

7. Respondent's employer determined that the alleged sexual misconduct was unsubstantiated.

8. During the course of the investigation, Respondent's employer discovered emails between Respondent and Client A, many of which were of a personal or humorous nature.

9. Respondent indicated that over the years of serving as Client A's case manager she found that Client A responded better to the use of humor than normal conversation as he often became easily agitated and angry. In his manic phases, Client A would act grandiose, delusional, disorganized in his thinking, and sexually preoccupied. Client A often did not have a telephone and preferred to use email as a form of communication. Respondent did not respond to some of Client's A's emails.

10. None of Respondent's emails to Client A were of a sexual nature.

11. Despite the challenges Respondent encountered working with Client A, the content and extent of the emails establish an unacceptable dual relationship.

12. Respondent has agreed to be reprimanded by the Professional Counselor Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board and to complete remedial continuing education in topics appropriate for the violations.

13. Respondent is not currently employed as a substance abuse counselor, and was not working in her capacity as a substance abuse counselor when these violations occurred.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.88, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Ann M. Thompson committed unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 164.01(2)(n) by

failing to avoid a dual relationship with a client that may impair the credentialed person's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

3. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.88(6).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Ann M. Thompson is REPRIMANDED.

3. The substance abuse counselor certificate issued to Respondent Ann M. Thompson (no. 15470-131) is hereby LIMITED as follows:

b. Within (180) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete eight (8) hours of remedial education on the topic of professional boundaries; and (4) hours in ethics. To satisfy this requirement, Respondent must take and pass any exam offered for the courses. All courses shall be "live" and "in-person" and not taken on-line through the internet, or in any pre-recorded medium.

c. Satisfaction of the required remedial education may be achieved by providing proof, acceptable to the Department's designee, that Respondent has completed the remedial education requirements of the Professional Counselor Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board, in Case No. 13CPC002.

d. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the remedial education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be required by the Section or Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.

4. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license and Respondent will be granted a full, unrestricted license after satisfying the Department or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.


5. Requests for approval of courses and proof of successful course completion shall be mailed, faxed or delivered by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

6. 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 certificate. 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 complete the remedial education or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's certificate (no. 15470-131) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the educational requirements.

7. This Order shall be effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

By: 
Michael J. Berndt, Chief Legal Counsel
On Behalf of the Department

6/12/13
Date