

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

CARA L. DEMPSKI,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
:
: **0002640**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance¹ Case No. 13 SOC 012

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

Cara L. Dempski
203 University St.
Elk Mound, WI 54739

Social Worker Section, Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and
Social Work Examining Board
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 Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The Section has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Section in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Cara L. Dempski (dob July 17, 1978) is certified in the State of Wisconsin as a social worker, having certificate number 10460-120, first issued on June 1, 2010 and current through February 28, 2015. Ms. Dempski's most recent address on file with the

¹ The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 203 University Street, Elk Mound, Wisconsin 54739.

2. At all times relevant to the investigation, Respondent was employed as an initial assessment social worker at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Milwaukee County Welfare in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

3. On January 11, 2013, Respondent was terminated from her position for knowingly falsifying two case notes and parts of an assessment for a Child Protection Services referral.

4. On June 28, 2012, the Bureau of Milwaukee County Welfare received a referral alleging that a mother was physically abusive to her four year old son, had a history of mental health issues, and was pregnant with her second child. Respondent investigated the allegations, believed them to be unsubstantiated, and recommended that the case be closed because there were no safety concerns. However, Respondent's supervisor believed that there were significant issues with the mother's mental health and that the case should be kept open to assess the mother's adjustments to the newborn and to verify whether or not the mother was fully addressing her mental health issues.

5. Respondent admitted that on November 20 and 30, 2012, she knowingly added false case notes to her report in a desire to close the case due to her being overwhelmed with her high case load. Respondent falsely noted that the mother had given birth to her second child on November 20, 2012. Respondent's report contained detailed false information that described: the newborn's health and functioning; that the newborn was developmentally on target; that the mother was engaged in mental health services; that all was going well in the home; and that Respondent had verified all of this information when she saw the newborn during an in-home visit on November 26, 2012. In fact, the child was not born until December 5, 2012, and none of the information in Respondent's report was true.

6. A review of Respondent's case load identified an additional five cases in which Respondent had falsified documentation in the official case record.

7. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

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, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The Section accepts the voluntary SURRENDER of Respondent, Cara L. Dempksi's certificate (no. 10460-120) to practice as a social worker in the State of Wisconsin.

3. Respondent is on notice that she may not hold herself out as being certified to practice social work in this state.

4. In the event that Respondent re-applies for certification or licensure as a social worker in the future, the Board may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing.

5. Respondent shall immediately return all indicia of Wisconsin certification 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. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

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

by:


A Member of the Section

9-25-13
Date