

## 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

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JOHN C. QUINN IV,  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

**0002643**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance<sup>1</sup> Case No. 12 SOC 079

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

John C. Quinn IV  
835 Fox St.  
Arcadia, WI 54612

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 John C. Quinn IV (dob June 7, 1963) is certified to practice social work in the State of Wisconsin, having certificate number 9398-120, first issued on November

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<sup>1</sup> The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

11, 2007, and current through February 28, 2015. John C. Quinn IV's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 835 Fox Street, Arcadia, Wisconsin 54612.

2. At all times relevant to these proceedings the Trempealeau Department of Human Services (TDHS) employed Respondent as a child protection social worker.

3. On March 5, 2012, during an ongoing investigation of alleged misconduct, Respondent resigned while maintaining he had not committed any misconduct to justify disciplinary action by his employer. He asserts that if any lapses occurred they were due to: issues with his supervisor; his employer's failure to accommodate Respondent's health issue; and Respondent's exceptionally high case load due to significant turn-over in agency personnel.

#### COUNT I

4. On November 8, 2011, Respondent and his supervisor discussed the need for a visitation plan for Family A. The visitation plan was due in December 2011. Respondent did not complete the written visitation plan within the established due date.

5. On January 1, 2012, Respondent authorized return of Family A's child to the care of the child's parent. Respondent was required to give a court at least ten days before the event occurred. Respondent failed to give the court the required notice and failed to submit documentation of safety assessments that were required prior to the child's return.

#### COUNT II

6. On January 14, 2012, Respondent was on call after hours and responsible for receiving reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Respondent received a report of possible child endangerment that was not an immediate risk. Respondent correctly determined that another state had jurisdiction over the matter. Respondent determined that the reporter, a parent, could assure the child's safety. Respondent instructed the parent to report to the agency the following Monday.

7. Respondent failed to document the report. On January 16, 2012, Respondent's lapse was discovered when the parent reported to the agency as Respondent had instructed.

#### COUNT III

8. On March 13, 2012, after Respondent resigned his position with TDHS, an individual contacted TDHS asking to speak with Respondent. TDHS had no record that the individual was a client. The individual reported Respondent had been providing services to the individual's daughter.

9. Respondent had not created any documentation that the individual was receiving services, nor had he told the individual that he had left TDHS. Therefore Respondent failed to insure that the individual's service needs would continue without unnecessary disruption.

10. 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(2), 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, John C. Quinn IV violated Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(18) by failing to maintain adequate records of social work activities.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, John C. Quinn IV violated Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(21) by failing to make reasonable efforts to notify a client when professional services will be interrupted by the credential holder.

4. As a result of the above violations, John C. Quinn IV is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent John C. Quinn IV, is hereby REPRIMANDED.
3. The certificate to practice social work in the State of Wisconsin issued to John C. Quinn IV (certificate number 9398-120) is LIMITED as follows:

##### Ordered Education

a. Within 120 days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete four (4) hours of education on the topic of record keeping; four (4) hours of education on the topic of time management; and four (4) hours of education on ethics. The courses must be offered by a provider pre-approved by the Section's monitoring liaison. Successful completion requires Respondent to pass any examination that may be offered for the courses.

b. Within 30 days of completion, Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this Order may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Section or Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.

#### Requirement to obtain a professional mentor

- c. Prior to returning to active practice, or if Respondent is currently practicing, within 30 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall engage the services of a licensed social worker to serve as a professional mentor. The proposed mentor shall be pre-approved by the Section or its designee.
- d. The professional mentor shall be actively practicing in Respondent's field and shall not have any personal relationship, past or present, with Respondent, or any other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the mentor's ability to render fair and unbiased reports to the Department. Examples of relationships that would render a proposed mentor impermissible include, but are not limited to, family members, business partners, and persons engaged in referral of clients.
- e. If Respondent is employed and his supervisor meets these qualifications, the supervisor may serve as the professional mentor.
- f. Respondent's request for approval of a proposed mentor shall be accompanied by the mentor's current curriculum vitae and a letter from the mentor confirming that he or she has read the Final Decision and Order and agrees to serve in this capacity.
- g. The parties shall meet at Respondent's place of practice at least once every 30 days to discuss issues related to Respondent's work performance and record keeping. Prior to all meetings, Respondent shall provide the mentor with a copy of any work evaluation, assessment or complaint that occurred within the last quarter as well as five randomly-selected cases chosen by the professional mentor.

#### Reporting Requirements

- h. The mentor shall provide the Department Monitor with thorough quarterly reports identifying the number of meetings that have taken place in the preceding quarter and the quality of Respondent's work.
- i. It is Respondent's responsibility to ensure the mentor's quarterly reports are submitted when due.
- j. The mentor shall immediately report any unprofessional conduct or suspected violation of this Order to the Department Monitor.
- k. Respondent shall report to the Department Monitor any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of a change.
- l. After timely submission of four (4) quarterly work reports, and with a written recommendation from the mentor expressly supporting the request, Respondent may petition the Section for modification or termination of the

professional mentorship. Whether to modify or terminate the terms of this Order is in the Section's sole discretion.

4. Each limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after Respondent has satisfied the Section or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all the requirements of each limitation.

5. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, John C. Quinn IV shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$250.

6. Requests, reports, and notifications pursuant to this Order, as well as payment of costs (payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services), shall be submitted 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

7. 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 Section 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 or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education, assessments, or submit reports as set forth above, Respondent's certificate (no. 9398-120) may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs and completion of the education, assessment, and reports.

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

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

by:

  
A Member of the Section

9-25-13  
Date