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

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

KRISTINE L. SENN,

RESPONDENT.

0002644

Division of Legal Services and Compliance¹ Case No. 12 SOC 075

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

Kristine L. Senn Tomah, WI 54660

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 Kristine L. Senn, (dob August 2, 1959) is certified in the State of Wisconsin as a social worker, having certificate number 2240-120, first issued on November 24, 1993, and current through February 28, 2015. Respondent's most recent location 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 in Tomah, Wisconsin 54660.

- 2. Respondent has not been previously disciplined by the Section.
- 3. Respondent was employed as a resident service coordinator at Willow Woods, a low income housing facility owned by National Church Residences in Tomah, Wisconsin from August 23, 2010 to August 23, 2011. Respondent's primary job duties included assisting residents in accessing social services and coordinating the delivery of those services. A Social Worker license was not required for the position.
- 4. Throughout the term of her employment, Respondent provided service coordination services to Resident A, an adult male resident at Willow Woods.
- 5. Respondent attended a conference with the property manager of Willow Woods in St. Louis, Missouri from May 23 25, 2011.
- 6. During the conference, Respondent exhibited poor judgment by engaging in phone calls, on other than work related matters, with Resident A after business hours.
- 7. Respondent's attempts to placate Resident A, through her actions and inactions, projected an appearance of acceptance and a dual relationship.
- 8. 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, Respondent violated Wisconsin Administrative Code § MPSW 20.02(13) by engaging in a dual relationship with Resident A.
- 3. As a result of the above violations, Respondent Kristine L. Senn is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

- 1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
- 2. Respondent Kristine L. Senn is REPRIMANDED.
- 3. Respondent has successfully completed 4 hours of education on the topic of social work ethics and boundaries. A copy of the certificate of course completion has been provided to the Department. The education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy

continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Section or Department, but may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.

- 4. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$250.00.
- 5. Payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent 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

<u>DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov</u>

- 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 license. 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, Respondent's certificate (no. 2240-120) 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 forfeiture and costs and completion of the education.
 - 7. 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

Date 9 - 25-13