

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a substance abuse counselor at a treatment center (Center), located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

3. On December 11, 2013, Respondent reported to the Center's supervising director that Respondent began a personal relationship with a client approximately two (2) months after Respondent served as the client's therapist. Respondent reported the relationship began in September 2012 and lasted until November 2012.

4. Respondent denied the relationship began during the time she saw the client in her professional capacity.

5. Respondent denied that the relationship was physically intimate.

6. As a result of Respondent's relationship with the client, Respondent became a potential witness to the client's allegedly criminal acts. Respondent's personal relationship with the client has therefore potentially compromised the confidentiality of the client's treatment records.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services 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, Bridget L. Polzean committed unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 164.01(2)(n), by failing to avoid a relationship with her client that may impair Respondent's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

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

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Bridget L. Polzean is REPRIMANDED.

3. The certificate authorizing Bridget L. Polzean (certificate number 15810-131) to practice as a substance abuse counselor is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of education on the topic of ethical patient boundaries offered by a provider pre-approved by the Department's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.

- b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the ordered 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 requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
- c. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's certificate and Respondent will be granted a full, unrestricted certificate after satisfying the Department or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.

4. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Bridget L. Polzean shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$270.00


5. Payment of costs shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and 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 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
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 license. The Department 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. 15810-131) may, in the discretion of the Department or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs.

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

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

by: 
Michael J. Berndt, Chief Counsel
On behalf of the Department

2/20/14
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

BRIDGET L. POLZEAN,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

0003035

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 13 RSA 039

Respondent Bridget L. Polzean and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
- the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
- the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
- the right to petition for rehearing; and
- all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Department's order, if adopted in the form as attached.


5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Department, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the

Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Department, the parties agree not to contend that the Department has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

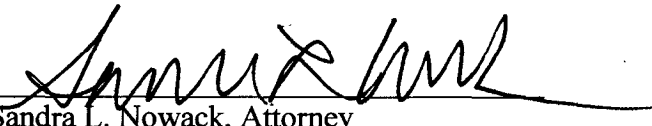
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance may appear before the Department without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Department may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Department adopt this Stipulation, the Department's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.


Bridget L. Polzean, Respondent
976 Roseland Drive, #1
Kewaskum, WI 53040
Certificate no. 15810-131

2/2/14
Date


Sandra L. Nowack, Attorney
State Bar Number 1025643
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190
Tel. (608) 266-8098
sandra.nowack@wisconsin.gov

2/6/14
Date