

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 THE
CERTIFICATION OF

PATRICIA A. RIBBICH,
RESPONDENT.

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:

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

00035 06

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 SOC 205

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

Patricia A. Ribbich
1912 S. 21st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional
Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board
P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

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 Patricia A. Ribbich, (dob July 23, 1942) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, having certification number 4894-120, first issued on May 12, 1995, and current through February 28, 2015. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1912 South 21st Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204.

2. On November 11, 2013, the Department of Safety and Professional Services began an audit of compliance with the continuing education requirements for social workers for the 2011-2013 biennium.

3. Respondent's name was randomly selected as a subject of the audit.

4. Respondent certified on her 2013 application for license renewal that she completed thirty (30) hour of continuing education for the 2011-2013 biennium.

5. Despite two requests by the Department, Respondent failed to demonstrate compliance with continuing education requirements for the 2011-2013 biennium because she failed to submit certificates of completion for continuing education courses taken during that time period.

6. Respondent informed the Department that she could not produce documentation for the thirty (30) required CEs she took during the 2011-2013 biennium.

7. Respondent was not granted a postponement or waiver for the continuing education requirements for the 2011-2013 biennium.

8. Respondent acknowledges that she is retired, has no intention of practicing social work in the State of Wisconsin and does not intend to use the social worker title in the future.

9. 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).

2. Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 8.02(4), unless granted a postponement or waiver under sub. (7), a credential holder who fails to meet continuing education requirements by the renewal deadline shall cease and desist from using a social worker title protected under Wis. Stat. ch. 457.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 8.02(3), by failing to provide, upon request, certificates of completion for the continuing education courses taken during the 2011-2013 biennium.

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The voluntary SURRENDER of the certificate to practice social work in the State of Wisconsin issued to Patricia A. Ribbich (certificate no. 4894-120) is hereby ACCEPTED.

3. In the event that Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement to practice as a social worker in the future, the Section may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a certificate and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any license granted shall be in the discretion of the Section and is not reviewable.

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

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 28 day of October, 2014

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

By: Nick Smith
A Member of the Section (PS)

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 THE
CERTIFICATION OF

PATRICIA A. RIBBICH,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

0003506

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 SOC 205

Respondent Patricia A. Ribbich 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 Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section). 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 Section's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Section, 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 Section, the parties agree not to contend that the Section 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 Section in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Section may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Section adopt this Stipulation, the Section'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 Section adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Patricia A. Ribbich

Patricia A. Ribbich, Respondent
1912 S. 21st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Certificate no. 4894-120

9/25/2014
Date

James E. Polewski

James E. Polewski, Attorney
State Bar Number 1002963
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
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Sept 25, 2014
Date