

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

LINDA D. VAN NESS,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
:

0003822

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 SOC 256

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

Linda D. Van Ness
1950 Mereworth Ct.
Oshkosh, WI 54904

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 Linda D. Van Ness (DOB January 8, 1955) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, having certificate number 2291-120, first granted on November 24, 1993, and current through February 28, 2015. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1950 Mereworth Court, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54904.

2. In 2013, the Department conducted an audit of social workers to determine their compliance with the continuing education requirements for the 2011-2013 biennium.
3. Respondent's name was randomly selected as a subject of the audit.
4. Upon being contacted, Respondent informed the Department that she is retired and does not intend to practice social work in Wisconsin.
5. 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 voluntary SURRENDER of the certification to practice social work in the State of Wisconsin issued to Linda D. Van Ness, (certificate no. 2291-120) is hereby ACCEPTED.
3. Respondent shall not engage in the practice of social work; use any title that represents or may tend to represent that she is licensed to practice social work; represent herself as an individual who engages in social work, advanced practice social work, independent social work or clinical social work.
4. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement, Respondent shall first satisfy the Section or its designee that she has complied with the following:
 - a. Respondent shall successfully complete thirty (30) hours of continuing education for each biennium from 2011-2013 through the biennium in which Respondent seeks reinstatement. Continuing education completed pursuant to this paragraph shall comply with the requirements specified in Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 8.02.
 - b. Respondent shall submit proof, satisfactory to the Section or its designee, of the successful completion of the education.
 - c. The education completed pursuant to this limitation may not be used to satisfy any other continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Section or Department.

- d. The Section may, in its discretion impose such limitations as it deems advisable.
- e. The decision of whether or not to grant reinstatement is within the Section's sole discretion and is not reviewable.

5. Violation of any terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a revocation of Respondent's right to petition for reinstatement. 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.

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

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 18th day of March, 2015.

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

By: Nicholas R. Pines
A Member of the Section

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

LINDA D. VAN NESS,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

0003822

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 SOC 256

Respondent Linda D. Van Ness 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.

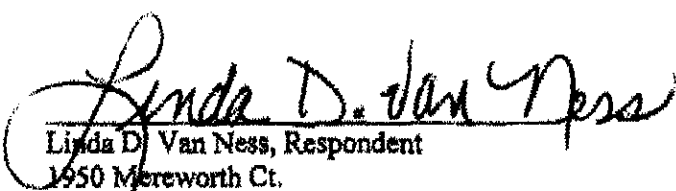
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision 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 and any member of the Section ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation 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. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Section should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

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.


Linda D. Van Ness, Respondent
1950 Mereworth Ct.
Oshkosh, WI 54904
Certificate no. 2291-120

2/13/15
Date


Cody Wagner, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

2/16/15
Date