

## 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

LAURIE T. CAUFFMAN,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
:  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
:  
: 0004082

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 SOC 291

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

Laurie T. Cauffman  
S7928 County Road J  
Viroqua, WI 54665

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 Laurie T. Cauffman (dob August 13, 1981) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, having certificate number 11232-120, first granted on October 2, 2012, and current through February 28, 2015. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is S7928 County Road J, Viroqua, Wisconsin 54665.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a social worker at Vernon County Department of Human Services, located in Viroqua, Wisconsin.

3. Respondent was assigned to assist clients with money management issues, and to provide clients with prepaid gift cards to use for the clients' needs at a local retailer.

4. Respondent misappropriated gift cards intended for client use, using them for herself instead, and took cash from one client for Respondent's personal expenses.

5. On December 29, 2014, Respondent was convicted of two counts of theft of movable property, and was sentenced to fifteen days in jail and two years' probation. Respondent was further ordered to make restitution of \$2,462.22.

6. 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. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Laurie T. Cauffman committed unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(2) by violating a law, the circumstances of which substantially relate to practice under her social worker certificate.

3. As a result of the violations, Laurie T. Cauffman is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(b).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The Section accepts the permanent SURRENDER of Respondent Laurie T. Cauffman's certificate, (number 11232-120), to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin.

3. Respondent Laurie T. Cauffman is on notice that she may not engage in the practice of social work in the state of Wisconsin, nor may she hold herself out as one authorized to practice social work in this state.

4. This SURRENDER constitutes Respondent's permanent relinquishment of her right to renew her certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin. Respondent may not, at any time in the future, reapply for a certificate or license to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin.

5. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Laurie T. Cauffman shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$500.00.

6. Respondent shall immediately return all indicia of Wisconsin certification and submit payment of any costs (payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) 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

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:

Nick Santar  
A Member of the Board

6/19/15  
Date

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

LAURIE T. CAUFFMAN,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
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STIPULATION

0004082

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 SOC 291

Respondent Laurie T. Cauffman 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.

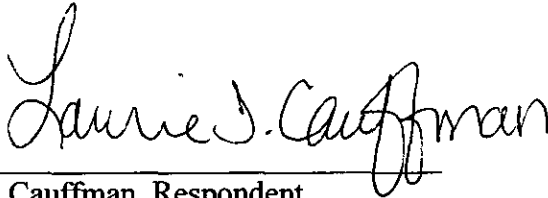
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Section, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted 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.

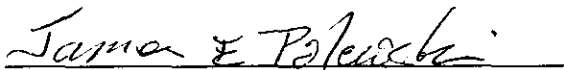
8. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order would constitute an agency finding within the meaning of Wis. Stat. §§ 48.685 and 50.065. Should Respondent wish to work in a Wisconsin DHS-licensed facility in any role, Respondent will need to pass a Rehabilitation Review through DHS prior to commencement of such employment.

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



Laurie T. Cauffman, Respondent  
S7928 County Road J  
Viroqua, WI 54665  
Certificate number 11232-120

3/2/2015  
Date



James E. Polewski, Attorney  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
P.O. Box 7190  
Madison, WI 53707-7190

Feb 25, 2015  
Date