

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
THOMAS L. CHARLES, L.C.S.W., :
RESPONDENT. :

0004382

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 15 SOC 013

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

Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W.
1418 21st Avenue S
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

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 Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W., (dob July 26, 1951) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, having license number 4207-123, first issued on September 25, 1995 and current through February 28, 2017. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1418 21st Avenue S, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a clinic manager at a health and human service center (the center) located in Friendship, Wisconsin.

3. Respondent hired as a mental health counselor a patient to whom Respondent was at the time providing counseling services.

4. 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, Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W., violated Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(13), by failing to avoid dual relationships that may impair the credentialed person's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

3. As a result of the above violations, Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f) and (h).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The license of Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W., (license number 4207-123), to practice social work in the State of Wisconsin is **SUSPENDED** for 14 days to commence 30 days after the effective date of this Order.

3. The license to practice social work issued to Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W., (license number 4207-123) is **LIMITED** as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete 6 hours of remedial education on the topic of professional ethics offered by a provider pre-approved by the Section'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.
- c. 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 Section or Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.

4. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$159.17.

5. Request for approval of courses, proof of successful course completion and 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:

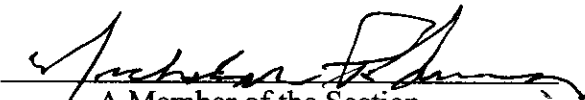
Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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 Section in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations 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 or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 4207-123) 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 costs and provided proof of successful completion of the ordered education.

7. Except as provided in paragraph 2 of the Order, this Order is effective on the date of its signing.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 17th day of November, 2015

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

By: 
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

THOMAS L. CHARLES, L.C.S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

0004382

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 15 SOC 013

Respondent Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W., 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 or Respondent's attorney, 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.


Thomas L. Charles, L.C.S.W., Respondent
1418 21st Avenue S
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
License no. 4207-123

7/8/2015
Date


Sandra L. Nowack, Prosecuting Attorney
Attorney for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance
WI State Bar No. 1025643
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190
(608) 266-8098

7/13/15
Date