

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Safety and Professional Services from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Safety and Professional Services data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name* as it appears on the order.
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup."

The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:

<http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>

- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DSPS website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact DSPS@wisconsin.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MELANIE L. CREGER, C.S.A.C.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
:

0004739

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 RSA 001

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

Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C.
102 Northstar Lane
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8368
Madison, WI 53708-8368

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). The Department has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Department adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., (dob October 18, 1960) is certified in the state of Wisconsin as a clinical substance abuse counselor, having certificate number 14013-132, first granted on September 30, 2005 and current through February 28, 2017. Respondent is also certified in the state of Wisconsin as a clinical supervisor-in-training, having certificate number 15581-133, first granted on March 31, 2015 and current through February 28, 2017. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is 102 Northstar Lane, Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a clinical therapist at a clinic (Clinic), located in Sparta, Wisconsin.
3. On January 6, 2016, Respondent turned in a treatment plan to office support staff for processing.
4. Office support staff noticed that the patient's signature on the treatment plan looked different than this patient's previous signatures and notified management.
5. The patient was contacted and denied signing the treatment plan.
6. On January 8, 2016, Respondent attended a meeting at a Clinic branch in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and admitted to management that she signed the patient's name to the treatment plan. Respondent's employment was suspended.
7. After being suspended on January 8, 2016, Respondent traveled from La Crosse to Sparta, located another treatment plan, which she had signed, on a secretary's desk in an interoffice envelope marked "confidential," removed the treatment plan and shredded the signature page.
8. On January 25, 2016, Respondent, in a letter to the Department, self-reported this misconduct and admitted signing the patient's name to the treatment plan without the patient's consent or knowledge. Respondent also admitted shredding the treatment plan signature page.
9. Respondent's employment was terminated.
10. 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, Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 164.01(2)(i), by engaging in false, fraudulent, misleading or deceptive behavior associated with the practice as a substance abuse professional, including falsifying or inappropriately altering patient records.
3. As a result of the above violation, Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.88(6).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The certificates to practice as a substance abuse professional in the state of Wisconsin issued to Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., (certificate numbers 14013-132 and 15581-133) are SUSPENDED for a period of fourteen (14) days from the date of this Order.

3. Respondent shall not engage in any practice as a substance abuse professional while her credentials to do so are suspended.

4. The certificates to practice as a substance abuse professional in the state of Wisconsin issued to Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., (certificate numbers 14013-132 and 15581-133) are limited as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete four (4) hours of education on the topic of ethics and four (4) hours of education on the topic of documentation 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.
- 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 Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
- d. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's certificate after satisfying the Department that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.

5. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$165.00.

6. 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

7. 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 certificate. 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 costs as ordered or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's certificate (nos. 14013-132 and 15581-133) may, in the discretion of the Department or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of costs and has submitted proof of successful completion of the ordered education.

8. 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

Date 6/6/16

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MELANIE L. CREGER, C.S.A.C.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: STIPULATION
:
:

0004739

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 RSA 001

Respondent Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., 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.

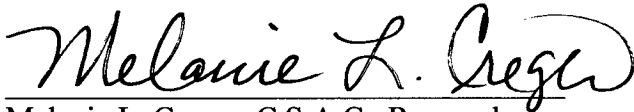
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Department, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the

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 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 that the Department adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., Respondent
102 Northstar Lane
St. Croix, WI 54024
Certificate nos. 14013-132 and 15581-133

5.23.16
Date



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

5/31/16
Date