

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

LAURA E. SOLPER, L.C.S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

0005342

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 SOC 059

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

Laura E. Solper, L.C.S.W.
P.O. Box 104
Kimberly, WI 54136

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 Laura E. Solper, L.C.S.W., DOB November 1, 1983, (Respondent) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, having certificate number 7960-123, first issued on June 4, 2014, and current through February 28, 2017. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is P.O. Box 104, Kimberly, Wisconsin 54136.

2. Respondent was certified as an advanced practice social worker, pursuant to Wisconsin certificate number 187-228, which was issued on August 19, 2010, and expired on August 19, 2014. Respondent retains the right to renew that credential until August 18, 2019.

3. Respondent possessed a Wisconsin training license in marriage and family therapy, which was issued on January 11, 2010, and expired on February 28, 2015. Respondent retains the right to renew that credential until February 27, 2020.

4. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a social worker in Appleton, Wisconsin.

5. On June 25, 2016, Respondent was stopped by a City of De Pere police officer after being observed turning the wrong direction on a one-way street.

6. Upon questioning Respondent, the police officer smelled an odor of intoxicants.

7. When Respondent was asked if she would submit to a field sobriety test, Respondent stated that she would. Respondent stated she could not believe this was happening to her. The police officer asked her why and Respondent explained that she works “on the same side of the law” as the police officer. The officer asked what she did, and she responded that she was a “social worker” in Appleton. Respondent asked the officer if they were in Brown County and the officer told her they were. Respondent reportedly stated that she wished she was in Outagamie County because they would just know her and she could go free.

8. After her arrest, Respondent suggested that the officer give her a stern talking to and let her go. She said that she wished she were in Outagamie County because if she were she could just get a ride home.

9. On October 28, 2016, in Brown County Circuit Court case number 2016CT1312, Respondent pled no contest and was convicted of operating while intoxicated – 2nd, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 346.63(1)(a), a misdemeanor.

10. Respondent timely reported this conviction to the Section, obtained an AODA assessment on her own initiative, and has cooperated fully with the Department’s investigation.

11. Respondent successfully completed a six (6) hour course entitled *Wisconsin Mental Health and the Law*, on the topic of ethics.

12. Respondent accepts full responsibility for the arrest, however she explains that she was intoxicated and denies the inferences that she intended to use her credentials to avoid arrest. Respondent has chosen to resolve this matter to avoid the costs of litigation and therefore 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, Laura E. Solper, L.C.S.W., engaged in unprofessional conduct pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § 20.02.

3. As a result of the above violations, Laura E. Solper, L.C.S.W., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Laura E. Solper, L.C.S.W., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The Section accepts the education described in the Findings of Facts, paragraph 11, in lieu of education that the Section would have otherwise ordered.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Laura E. Solper, L.C.S.W., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$300.00.

5. 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

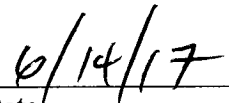
6. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's certificate (no. 7960-123) to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Section may, in addition and/or in the alternative refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

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:


A Member of the Section


Date

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

LAURA E. SOLPER, L.C.S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

0005342

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 SOC 059

Respondent Laura E. Solper, 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.

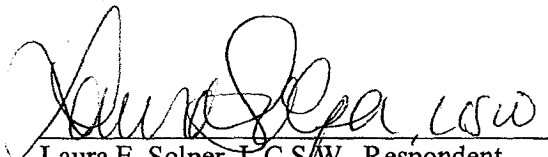
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by
the Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional
Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent
to the entry of the attached Final Decision 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.

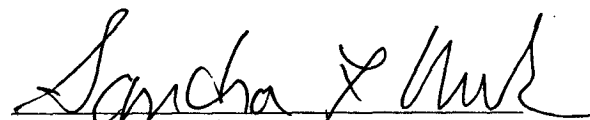
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Section ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Section in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's 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.


Laura E. Solper, L.C.S.W., Respondent
P.O. Box 104
Kimberly, WI 54136
License no. 7960-123

1/6/17
Date


Sandra L. Nowack, Attorney
State Bar No. 1025643
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190
Tel. (608) 266-8098
Fax (608) 266-2264
sandra.nowack@wisconsin.gov

1/30/17
Date