

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KRISTI H. KOVACS,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
:  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
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:

0005471

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 RSA 038

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

Kristi H. Kovacs  
N7903 Grandy Road  
Black Creek, WI 54106

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 Kristi H. Kovacs, (DOB January 16, 1954) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice substance abuse counseling, having certification number 15372-131, first granted on July 17, 2007. This certificate expired on February 28, 2017, and has not been renewed. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Respondent retains the right to renew upon payment of a fee until February 27, 2022. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is N7903 Grandy Road, Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a substance abuse counselor at a clinic located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

3. On November 17, 2016, the Department opened an investigation based on a complaint that Respondent charged clients for services that were not provided, that Respondent failed to properly document treatment provided, and that Respondent falsified documents and medical records.

4. Respondent retired in October 2016.

5. Respondent did not renew her certificate to practice substance abuse counseling when it expired on February 28, 2017.

6. Respondent does not plan to practice substance abuse counseling in the future and as such desires to surrender her right to renew her substance abuse counselor credential.

7. Respondent neither admits nor denies any violation of the applicable statutes or rules.

8. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to 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).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The voluntary SURRENDER of the right to renew Respondent's certificate (certificate no. 15372-131) to practice as a substance abuse counselor in the state of Wisconsin is accepted.

3. In the event Respondent petitions the Department for reinstatement of her certificate to practice substance abuse counseling in the state of Wisconsin, the Department may enter an order denying such petition without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a credential and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any credential shall be in the discretion of the Department.

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

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

By: Aloysius Rohmeyer  
Aloysius F. Rohmeyer, Acting Chief Counsel  
On Behalf of the Department

10-13-17  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KRISTI H. KOVACS,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
:  
: STIPULATION  
:  
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0005471

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 RSA 038

Respondent Kristi H. Kovacs 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.

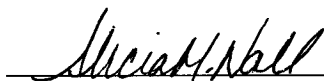
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance may appear before the Department, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that the Department may have 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.

  
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Kristi H. Kovacs, Respondent  
N7903 Grandy Rd.  
Black Creek, WI 54106  
Certificate no. 15372-131

Oct. 05, 2017  
Date

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

10/10/2017  
Date