

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

ASHLEY M. STELTZ,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
:

0005831

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 044

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

Ashley M. Steltz
2245 E. Village Drive
Oak Creek, WI 53154

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 Ashley M. Steltz (DOB May 11, 1984) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice clinical social work, having license number 7761-123, first issued on June 1, 2011, and current through February 28, 2019. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 2245 East Village Drive, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a clinical social worker at the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center (VA Center), located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

3. Respondent provided mental health services to a veteran, Patient A. She resigned from her position, and, within two (2) years of providing treatment to Patient A, she engaged in a romantic relationship with him.

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, Ashely M. Steltz, engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(11), by engaging in a romantic relationship with a client within two (2) years of providing mental health services.

3. As a result of the above violations, Ashley M. Steltz is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(h).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The license of Ashley M. Steltz, (license number 7761-123), to practice clinical social work in the state of Wisconsin is **SUSPENDED** for one (1) year from the date of this Order. After one (1) year, with proof of successful compliance with the terms set out in paragraphs three (3), four (4) and five (5) below, Respondent may petition the Section to terminate the suspension.

3. The license of Ashley M. Steltz, (license number 7761-123), to practice clinical social work in the state of Wisconsin is **LIMITED** as follows:

- a. Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of remedial education on the subject of professional ethics, and six (6) hours on the subject of dual relationships/professional boundaries. The course(s) must be pre-approved by the Section's designee. Successful completion requires that Respondent take and pass any exam offered for the course(s). Courses taken without preapproval may NOT be used to satisfy the remedial education requirements of this Order.

- b. Within thirty (30) days of completion of preapproved remedial education, Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion in the form of verification from the institution or organization that provided the education.
- c. None of the remedial 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.
- d. The Department shall remove this limitation from Respondent's license when Respondent has satisfied the Section's designee that Respondent has successfully completed the preapproved education.

4. The license of Ashley M. Steltz, (license number 7761-123), to practice clinical social work in the state of Wisconsin is further LIMITED as follows:

- a. Respondent shall undergo an evaluation by a mental health care professional who is competent to determine whether or not Respondent then possesses a mental health condition which renders Respondent unable to practice social work with reasonable skill and safety to patients.
- b. The evaluator must be preapproved by the Section's designee, under the following terms:
 - i. Before undergoing the evaluation, Respondent shall submit to the Department Monitor a copy of the evaluator's curriculum vitae, and copies of professional licenses and certifications held.
 - ii. The evaluator must be a licensed doctorate-level psychologist who is certified in a relevant field of practice by the American Board of Professional Psychology or a licensed psychiatrist who is certified in a relevant field of practice by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. At the discretion of the Section's designee, additional experience in a relevant field of practice may be substituted for Board certification. At the discretion of the Section's designee, alternate Board recognitions, such as fellowships, may also be substituted for Board certification.
 - iii. The evaluator must have had no previous personal or professional relationship with Respondent, and may not have previously evaluated or treated Respondent.
 - iv. The evaluator shall have had a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in the practice of psychology or psychiatry, and may not have been previously disciplined by any credentialing authority.

- c. While the evaluator remains responsible for the final evaluation, the evaluator may delegate testing or other components of the evaluation to other mental health professionals who the evaluator deems competent to conduct those tests or perform the delegated task.
- d. The exact tests chosen for administration are within the discretion of the evaluator. However, the evaluation must include a comprehensive interview of the individual and the use of rating scales, neuropsychological testing, and personality test(s).¹
- e. The evaluation shall include an assessment of Respondent's ability to appropriately manage professional boundaries with clients or patients.
- f. Within thirty (30) days of the completion of the evaluation, a written report regarding the results shall be submitted to the Department Monitor must have been completed no more than 30 days prior to submission to the Section.
- g. The evaluator shall identify restrictions on the nature of practice or practice setting or requirements for supervision of practice, if any, which are necessary to render Respondent able to practice social work with reasonable skill and safety.
- h. The evaluator shall identify specific mental health treatment goals, if any, which must be met before Respondent is able to practice social work with reasonable skill and safety.
- i. The evaluator's opinions and conclusions must be rendered to a degree of reasonable professional certainty.
- j. Respondent shall authorize release directly to the evaluator of records of mental health evaluations, diagnosis, treatment and treatment summaries that Respondent has undergone since 2015, and such other records that the evaluator determines are necessary to a competent evaluation.
- k. Respondent is responsible for the costs associated with the evaluation.

¹ Commonly used tests include the Beck Anxiety Inventory, Beck Depression Inventory-II, Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS), Bums Anxiety Inventory, Bums Depression Inventory, Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale, Hamilton Depression Rating Scale, Inventory to Diagnose Depression, Profile of Mood States (POMS), State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), Symptom Checklist-90-Revised, Taylor Manifest Anxiety Scale, Yale-Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Scale, Kaufman Adolescent and Adult Intelligence Test, Rorschach, Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III or IV (WAIS-III or WAIS-IV), Wechsler Memory Scale IV (WMS-IV), Category Test, Continuous Performance Test, Halstead-Reitan Neuropsychological Test Battery, MMPI2, NEO Personality Inventory, PAI, and the Thematic Apperception Test.

1. Respondent shall authorize the evaluator to discuss the results of the evaluation with the Section or its designee.
5. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$321.00.
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. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 7761-123) to practice clinical 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.
8. 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: Aloysius Rohmer - as delegated by Section 1/30/2018
A Member of the Section Chief Legal Counsel Date
DSPS

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

ASHLEY M. STELTZ,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

: 0005831

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 044

Respondent Ashley M. Schultz, with her attorneys, Murphy Desmond S.C., by Attorneys Hal Harlowe and Mario D. Mendoza 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. Respondent is represented by Murphy Desmond S.C., by Attorneys Hal Harlowe and Mario D. Mendoza.

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

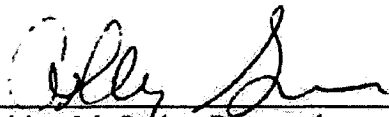
or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Section's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

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.

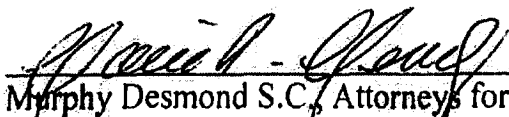
8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Section adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



Ashley M. Steltz, Respondent
2245 East Village Drive
Oak Creek, WI 53154

3/28/18

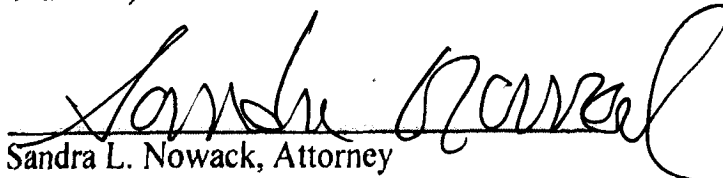
Date



Murphy Desmond S.C., Attorneys for Respondent
Attorney Mario D. Mendoza
33 East Main Street, Suite 500
P.O. Box 2038
Madison, WI 53701-2038

3-28-18

Date



Sandra L. Nowack, Attorney
State Bar Number 1025643
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

3/28/18

Date