

## 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

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

ANGELA S. HOWARD, S.W.  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

**0005927**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 021

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

Angela S. Howard, S.W.  
8327 North 105<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53224

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 Angela S. Howard, S.W. (DOB January 20, 1982) is credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, credential number 8654-120, first issued on November 26, 2004, and current through February 28, 2019. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 8327 North 105<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a social worker by a Wisconsin County Department of Human Services.

3. On January 20, 2017, Respondent was contacted by a mandated reporter from a school district within the county. This report involved the child of one of Respondent's co-workers (J.R.) with whom Respondent had a long time personal relationship. Because this call related to a co-worker, Respondent consulted with a supervisor. The supervisor stated that Respondent was to take the initial information and then transfer the investigation of the referral to a neighboring county. Respondent was instructed to not disclose any information regarding the report.

4. During the pendency of the investigation, Respondent met offsite with J.R. and discussed the report and divulged confidential information. These discussions included details of the allegations and the reporters.

5. Report related communications continued between Respondent and J.R. via text. The text messages included Respondent requesting J.R. not to divulge that they had discussed the report because, "[Respondent] could get in real trouble for telling and who called."

6. On February 1, 2017, Respondent's supervisors were notified of the communications between the Respondent and J.R. Subsequently, an investigation into the matter was initiated.

7. On February 2, 2017, Respondent was indefinitely suspended from her employment pending the results of the investigation.

8. On February 6, 2017, Respondent was terminated from her position with the county.

9. Respondent has admitted through her counsel that communications regarding the existence and content of the report took place and was aware of the possible consequences of the breach of confidentiality.

10. 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, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin Code § MPSW 20.02(10), by revealing facts, data, information, records, or communication received from a client in a professional capacity.

3. As a result of the above violation, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Angela S. Howard, S.W. is REPRIMANDED.
3. The certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin issued to Respondent (license number 8654-120) is LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at her own expense, successfully complete six (6) hours of education on confidentiality and ethics for social workers.
  - b. Each course attended in satisfaction of the Order must be pre-approved by the Board, Section, or its designee. Respondent shall be responsible for locating the course(s) and obtaining the required approval(s). Respondent must take and pass any exam offered for the course(s).
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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.
  - e. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's credential after satisfying the Section or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.
4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$750.00.
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. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's certificate (no. 8654-120) 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: Gregory Winkler *EW*  
A Member of the Section

10/23/2008  
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

ANGELA S. HOWARD, S.W.,  
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

0005927

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 021

Respondent Angela S. Howard 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. Respondent  
is represented by Attorney William Wetzel.


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.

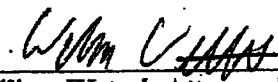
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Section ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Section in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's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

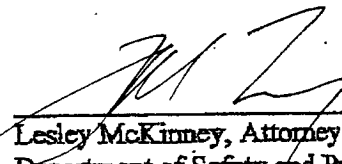
8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Section adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

  
Angela S. Howard, Respondent  
8327 N. 105<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53224-2607  
License no. 8654-120

8/29/18  
Date

  
William Wetzel, Attorney for Respondent  
Cross Law Firm, S.C.  
845 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawyers' Building  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

8/29/2018  
Date

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

8/29/18  
Date