

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	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
JESSICA K. TAPANI, S.W.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	0005930

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 004

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

Jessica K. Tapani, S.W.
P.O. Box 168
Poplar, WI 54864-0168

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 Jessica K. Tapani, S.W., (DOB January 16, 1976) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, having certificate number 10028-120, first issued on December 4, 2009, and current through February 28, 2019. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is Post Office Box 168, Poplar, Wisconsin 54864-0168.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a social worker at a residential care facility (Facility), located in Superior, Wisconsin.
3. Resident A, a Facility resident, is diagnosed with cognitive impairment secondary to dementia.
4. On August 19, 2016, Respondent was authorized by Resident A's guardian to use Resident A's money to purchase clothing and jewelry for Resident A.
5. On August 19, 2016, Respondent was given a check, issued by the Facility, made payable to a retail store in the amount \$452.00. On that same day, Respondent purchased \$457.22 worth of merchandise for Resident A and paid the difference with Respondent's own money.
6. On September 17, 2016, Resident A's guardian visited Resident A and asked about the clothing that was purchased. Respondent told the guardian that the clothing had been taken to the laundry department to be labeled for Resident A.
7. On November 1, 2016, Resident A's guardian contacted the Facility's Unit Manager to locate the items purchased.
8. After a search by the Facility, the Facility was ultimately able to identify the clothing in Resident A's room which had supposedly been purchased by Respondent on August 19, 2016.
9. The Facility's Executive Director obtained a copy of the purchase receipt from the retail store. Upon comparison, there were several items on the receipt that did not appear to be for Resident A and were not in Resident A's possession.
10. The Executive Director contacted the Superior Police Department, and a criminal investigation started.
11. Respondent was charged with theft in a business setting under \$2500.00, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.20(1)(b), a class A misdemeanor.
12. The District Attorney dismissed the charges against Respondent after the items were located with the belongings of another resident who had the same initials.
13. The items were Respondent had been storing the belongings in her basement and in a trailer at her home.
14. Respondent denies the allegations.
15. Respondent is moving out of Wisconsin and wishes to surrender her social work certificate.
16. 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).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. The SURRENDER of the certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin issued to Jessica K. Tapani, S.W., (certificate no. 10028-120) is hereby accepted.
3. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement in the future, the Section may enter an order denying such petition without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a certificate and whether to impose limitations or restrictions on any certificate granted shall be in the discretion of the Section.
4. 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 *aw*
A Member of the Section

10/23/2018
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

JESSICA K. TAPANI, S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

0005930

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 004

Respondent Jessica K. Tapani, 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.

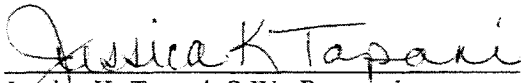
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by
the Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional
Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent
to the entry of the attached Final Decision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

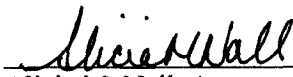
7. Respondent is informed that should the Section adopt this Stipulation, the Section's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

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.



Jessica K. Tapani, S.W., Respondent
P.O. Box 168
Poplar, WI 54864-0168
Certificate no. 10028-120

8/28/18
Date



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

8/28/18
Date