

## 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

TODD J. BRAUN, S.W.,  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

**0005931**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 SOC 061

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

Todd J. Braun, S.W.  
N5731 U.S. Hwy. 63  
Ellsworth, WI 54011

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 Todd J. Braun, S.W., (DOB March 30, 1968) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice social work, having certificate number 4396-120, first issued on January 30, 1995, and current through February 28, 2019. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is N5731 U.S. Highway 63, Ellsworth, Wisconsin 54011.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a social worker at a county agency (Agency), located in Menomonie, Wisconsin.
3. On April 16, 2010, Respondent failed to meet a client and properly complete a long-term care screen evaluation.
4. On April 27, 2010, Respondent failed to meet a client and conduct a vulnerable adult protective service (A.P.S.) investigation.
5. On August 2, 2016, August 8, 2016, and August 22, 2016, the Agency received A.P.S. reports on citizen L.P., age 83, from the county sheriff's office and the local fire department. All three reports were assigned to Respondent for investigation. The basis of the reports were unsafe and unsanitary home conditions, as well as a report of suicidality.
6. Respondent contacted citizen L.P. by telephone but did not attempt to conduct a home visit to confirm the living environment.
7. On January 6, 2017, the Agency received another A.P.S. report on citizen L.P. Respondent's supervisor, S.O., requested documentation regarding the reports received in August and learned that Respondent had had not conducted a home visit and failed to complete documentation of the actions he took after receiving the A.P.S. reports in August 2016.
8. On August 25, 2016, Respondent informed his supervisor, S.O., that he failed to complete a long-term care screening for another client within the past year and the client's eligibility for services lapsed.
9. 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, Todd J. Braun, S.W., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin Code § MPSW 20.02(18), by failing to maintain adequate records relating to services provided a client in the course of a professional relationship.
3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Todd J. Braun, S.W., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin Code § MPSW 20.02 (22) by committing gross negligence in practice in a single instance, or negligence in practice in more than one instance.
4. As a result of the above violations, Todd J. Braun, S.W., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. The SURRENDER of the certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin issued to Todd J. Braun, S.W., (certificate no. 4396-120) 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. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement of his certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin or applies for another credential with the Department, Respondent shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$465.00, before any application is considered.
5. 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 *ek*  
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

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

TODD J. BRAUN, S.W.,  
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

0005931

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 SOC 061

Respondent Todd J. Braun, 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.

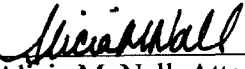
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Section ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Section in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's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

  
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Todd J. Braun, S.W., Respondent  
N5731 U.S. Hwy. 63  
Ellsworth, WI 54011  
Certificate no. 4396-120

7.12.2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

7/19/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date