

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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<http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>

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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
MELANIE L. CREGER, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W., :
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0006312**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 031

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

Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W.
794 Pleasant Lane
Menasha, WI 54952-2440

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 Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W., (DOB: October 18, 1960) is credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice Social Work, having credential number 7268-120, first issued on January 7, 2000, and current through February 28, 2021.¹ Respondent's most

¹ Respondent is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor, having certificate number 14013-132, first issued on September 30, 2005, and current through February 28, 2021. Respondent is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a Clinical Supervisor in Training, having certification

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recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 794 Pleasant Lane, Menasha, Wisconsin 54952-2440.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional counselor at a facility (Facility), located in Hudson, Wisconsin.

3. On January 12, 2017, Respondent failed to complete an intake progress report for a client's first session.

4. On January 17, 2017, Respondent failed to complete an intake progress report for a client's first session.

5. On February 3, 2017, Respondent began an "Adult Diagnostic Assessment" for a client but failed to complete numerous sections and sign the document.

6. On February 17, 2017, Respondent failed to complete an intake progress report for a client's sixth session and the portion that was completed was done using templated language.

7. On February 28, 2017, Respondent failed to complete an intake progress report for a client's first session.

8. On April 3, 2017, Respondent failed to complete an intake progress report for a client's first session.

9. On April 6, 2017, Respondent's employment with the Facility was terminated.

10. Respondent was given time to come into the Facility to complete her inadequate documentation on April 8, 2017, and April 9, 2017.

11. 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, Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., 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. A credential holder providing clinical services to a client

number 15581-133, first granted on March 31, 2015. 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 is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice professional counseling, having license number 3979-125, first issued on November 1, 2007, and current through February 28, 2021.

shall maintain records documenting an assessment, a diagnosis, a treatment plan, progress notes, and a discharge summary. All clinical records shall be prepared in a timely fashion. Absent exceptional circumstances, clinical records shall be prepared not more than one week following client contact, and a discharge summary shall be prepared promptly following closure of the client's case. Clinical records shall be maintained for at least 7 years after the last service provided, unless otherwise provided by federal law.

3. As a result of the above violations, Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The credential to practice social work issued to Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W., (credential number 7268-120) is LIMITED as follows:
 - a. Respondent Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W., must comply with all of the requirements of the Final Decision and Order entered in the Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Number 17 CPC 025.
 - b. The Department shall remove this limitation from Respondent's license when Respondent has petitioned the Department and has satisfied the Department or its designee that Respondent has successfully complied with all of the requirements of the Final Decision and Order entered in the Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Number 17 CPC 025.
4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$228.00.
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

You may also submit this information online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System, here:

<https://app.wi.gov/DSPSMonitoring>

6. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's credential (no. 7268-120) 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:


A Member of the Section

7/23/19
Date

RECEIVED

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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

DEPT OF SAFETY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
LEGAL SERVICES & COMPLIANCE

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MELANIE L. CREGER, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0006312

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 SOC 031

Respondent Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., L.P.C., 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.

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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.



Melanie L. Creger, C.S.A.C., E.P.C., S.W., Respondent
794 Pleasant Lane
Menasha, WI 54952-2440
Credential no. 7268-120

4.26.19

Date



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

4/29/19

Date

