

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Safety and Professional Services from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Safety and Professional Services data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name* as it appears on the order.
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup."

The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:

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

- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DSPS website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact DSPS@wisconsin.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR 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
MARIA J. BISHOP, L.P.C.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER 0006484

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 CPC 018

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

Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C.
141 S. Lakeshore Dr.
Racine, WI 53403

Professional Counselor 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 Professional Counselor 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 Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., (DOB: March 18, 1964) is licensed to practice professional counseling in the state of Wisconsin, having license number 4320-125, first issued on December 18, 2009, and current through February 28, 2021.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is 10125 West Forest Home Avenue, Unit 5, Hales Corners, Wisconsin 53130-2708. However, upon information and belief, the Respondent currently resides at 141 South Lakeshore Drive, Racine, Wisconsin 53403.

3. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional counselor at a counseling center (Center), located in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

4. Respondent began seeing Client A for treatment on September 27, 2016. Client A had been a victim of sex trafficking, and Respondent diagnosed her with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) with depersonalization features.

5. Respondent founded an organization (Organization) in approximately October 2016, during the same time period that Client A was receiving treatment by Respondent. The Organization uses art as a form of therapy to help sex-trafficked victims tell their story through photography.

6. Client A attended a planning meeting for the Organization on October 14, 2016, at which Respondent was also present. During this meeting, Respondent shared with the attendees that she had been betrayed in her own personal history.

7. On October 29, 2016, Respondent and Complainant exchanged text messages starting at 1:44 a.m. during which Respondent shared with Client A that her son's dad was a Milwaukee cop.

8. Respondent facilitated Client A's attendance at a conference (Conference) in Washington, D.C. on November 9-12, 2016, which focused on sex trafficking. Respondent connected Client A with a sponsor (Sponsor) who paid for Client A's expenses to attend the Conference.

9. Respondent and Client A traveled together from the Milwaukee airport to Washington, D.C. for the Conference.

10. Respondent and Client A stayed in the same hotel room during the Conference.

11. At the Conference, Client A became upset after an encounter with someone from her sex-trafficking past and shared her feelings about this encounter with Respondent in their hotel room. Respondent discussed this issue with Client A even though she knew that doing so was in the role of therapist as opposed to fellow attendee of the Conference.

12. Respondent admits that she was aware of "crossing some lines" by providing treatment to Client A at the Conference and staying in the same hotel room.

13. Client A's sixth and last appointment with Respondent was on November 15, 2016. Client A cancelled appointments with Respondent on November 21 and December 6, 2016.

14. On December 9, 2016, both Respondent and Client A attended a second Organization meeting. Other attendees included Client B and two other previous clients of

Respondent. During this meeting, Client A shared information regarding her past trauma with the group.

15. During the Organization meeting on December 9, 2016, Respondent and Client A had a disagreement about Client A's involvement in the Organization. During this discussion, Client A became upset and Respondent's voice became louder and her words quicker. This conversation took place in front of other attendees. Client A became upset and cried when discussing the confrontation with another attendee afterwards.

16. Respondent sent a text message to Client A on December 11, 2016, in which she stated she was "heavily processing my stuff today", referring to the December 9, 2016, Organization meeting and the conversation with Client A. Respondent also stated that she had "begun processing with a few strong accountable people next to me" and that she was "learning the ropes outside the office".

17. Respondent sent a text message to Client A on January 6, 2017, apologizing to Client A for the way she managed herself and her unprofessional behavior during their conversation on December 9, 2016.

18. Respondent's last attempt to contact Client A regarding therapeutic follow-up was a voicemail on December 22, 2016, to which she received no response.

19. Respondent admits that her role as Client A's therapist and her role as a fellow member of the Organization with Client A were intermingled during the relevant time period.

20. Respondent does not recall having a specific conversation with Client A about defining their relationship of therapist and patient as separate from their relationship as fellow participants in the Organization.

21. Respondent admits that during the time she was providing treatment to Client A, Respondent did not consult with co-workers, colleagues, or other professionals regarding possible boundary or dual relationship issues as it related to Client A's treatment and involvement in the Organization.

22. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Professional Counselor 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(2), 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, Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(13), by failing to avoid dual relationships or relationships that may impair the credentialed person's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

3. As a result of the above violation, Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f) and (h).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The license to practice professional counseling issued to Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., (license number 4320-125) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of education on the topic of dual relationships/boundaries and six (6) hours of education on the topic of professional ethics offered by a provider pre-approved by the Section's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after satisfying the Section or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all the ordered education.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$2,373.00.

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 license (no. 4320-125) to practice professional counseling 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.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SECTION OF THE WISCONSIN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

by:

Tammy H. Scheidger
A Member of the Section

10/15/19
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MARIA J. BISHOP, L.P.C.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0006484

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 CPC 018

Respondent, Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., 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 Wisconsin Board of Nursing (Board). 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 Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, 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 Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board 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 Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board 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 Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board'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 Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Maria J Bishop

Maria J Bishop (Apr 18, 2019)

Maria J. Bishop, L.P.C., Respondent
141 S. Lakeshore Dr.
Racine, WI 53403
License no. 4320-125

April 18, 2019

Date

Carley Peich Kiesling

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

4/18/19

Date