

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR 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 :  
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
BARBARA A. BARGHAHN, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., :  
RESPONDENT. :

**ORDER 0006487**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 CPC 028

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

Barbara A. Barghahn  
914 Birch Street  
La Crescent, MN 55947

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 Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., (DOB February 27, 1961) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice professional counseling as a trainee, having license number 2800-226, first issued on November 23, 2015, and current through November 23, 2019. Respondent is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice substance abuse counseling, having certification number 15919-131, first issued on October 20, 2014, and current through February

28, 2021. Respondent held a certificate to practice substance abuse counseling as a trainee, having license number 16324-130, first issued on May 24, 2011, which expired on February 28, 2015. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is 914 Birch Street, La Crescent, Minnesota 55947.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional counselor in-training with a counseling facility (the Facility), with locations in Black River Falls and Onalaska, Wisconsin.

3. On July 18, 2016, Respondent fell asleep during an in-home counseling session due to medical issues.

4. On November 30, 2016, Respondent's clinical supervisor discovered that Respondent had failed to complete assessments, treatment plans, and signed treatment plans for multiple clients that had been seen for more than three (3) sessions.

5. On December 5, 2016, and December 10, 2016, a social worker requested an update regarding progress in therapy for two (2) of Respondent's clients. Respondent did not respond. On December 20, 2016, the social worker contacted Respondent's supervisor who noted that not all progress notes were completed for those two (2) clients.

6. On February 27, 2017, Respondent's clinical supervisor discovered that Respondent had failed to complete assessments and updated treatment plans for clients.

7. On March 6, 2017, Respondent's clinical supervisor discovered that Respondent had failed to complete assessments and updated treatment plans for clients.

8. 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, Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(14), by failing to conduct an assessment, evaluation, or diagnosis as a basis for treatment consultation.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., 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 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.

4. As a result of the above violations, Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(g).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The license to practice professional counseling issued to Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., (license number 2800-226) is LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of documentation or record keeping 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. The license to practice professional counseling issue to Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., (license number 2800-226) is further LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Respondent must comply with all the requirements of the Final Decision and Order entered in the Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Number 17 RSA 016.
  - 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 the requirements of the Final Decision and Order entered in the Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Number 17 RSA 016.

5. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$538.82.

6. 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>

7. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 2800-226) 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.

8. 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. Scheidgger  
A Member of the Section

10/15/19  
Date

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

BARBARA A. BARGHAHN, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T.,  
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

**ORDER 0006487**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 CPC 028

Respondent Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., 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 Professional Counselor 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.

  
Barbara A. Barghahn, S.A.C., L.P.C.-I.T., Respondent  
914 Birch Street  
La Crescent, MN 55947  
License no. 2800-226

5/7/19  
Date

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

5/8/19  
Date