

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	:	ORDER TERMINATING SUSPENSION
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	AND IMPOSING LIMITATIONS
	:	
JENNIFER WENGER,	:	ORDER0004837
RESPONDENT.	:	

TO: JENNIFER WENGER SW
FOND DU LAC WI 54935

On July 27, 2016, the Wisconsin Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board ("Section") issued a Final Decision and Order ("Order") suspending Respondent's social worker certificate (#11137-120) for at least one year. Respondent's certificate was also limited by certain terms and conditions including, completion of a fitness to practice evaluation with a pre-approved psychiatrist or psychologist experienced in evaluating social worker's fitness for duty. If the Section determines that Respondent is fit to practice, the Section may nonetheless limit Respondent's license in a manner to address any concerns the Section has with the conduct set out in the Order's Findings of Fact and to address any recommendations resulting from the evaluation.

On May 13, 2020, the Section's designee considered Respondent's request for termination of the suspension. Based upon the information of record and the fitness to practice evaluation results report received by the Department Monitor on April 27, 2020 ("Evaluation"), the Section's designee finds and makes the following:

ORDER

1. Respondent's request to terminate the suspension imposed pursuant to the Order is hereby GRANTED. Respondent's Evaluation indicates to the satisfaction of the Section's designee that Respondent does not suffer from any illness or condition that renders her unable or unwilling to safely and reliably engage in the practice of social work.

2. The Section deems the following conditions and limitations necessary for Respondent to comply with the recommendations of the fitness to practice evaluator and to address the Section's concerns related to the conduct set out in the Order's Findings of Fact. Respondent's social worker certificate is hereby LIMITED as follows:

a. Within 30 days from the date of this order, Respondent shall provide proof to the Department Monitor that she has begun or continued treatment with a psychotherapist, whose credential is in good standing, to address the issues identified in the Order and in the Evaluation. Respondent shall immediately provide the psychotherapist with these documents and a release authorizing the psychotherapist to discuss the progress of Respondent's treatment with the Section, its designee, and the Department Monitor.

i. The frequency of sessions shall be determined by the psychotherapist. Therapy shall continue until the psychotherapist provides written confirmation that the treatment goals have been met and the Department Monitor confirms that this requirement has been terminated.

ii. The psychotherapist shall submit quarterly reports as directed by the Department Monitor. It is Respondent's responsibility to ensure the reports are submitted when due. The psychotherapist shall immediately report any unprofessional conduct or suspected violation of this Order.

iii. After the timely submission of four (4) consecutive satisfactory treatment reports, and with a written recommendation from the psychotherapist expressly supporting the request, Respondent may submit a request for the termination of this limitation.

b. Respondent shall practice only under the supervision of a credentialed social worker or other licensed health care professional, with an unencumbered credential, approved by the Section or its designee.

i. Respondent shall practice only in a work setting pre-approved by the Section or its designee. Requests for preapproval must be accompanied by current job description, name and contact information of Respondent's supervisor.

ii. Respondent shall provide a copy of the Final Decision and Order dated July 27, 2016, this Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Limitations, and all other subsequent orders immediately to supervisor personnel at all settings where Respondent works as a social worker, currently or in the future. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with written acknowledgement from each employer that copies of these orders have been received. Such acknowledgement shall be provided to the Department Monitor within fourteen (14) days of beginning new employment and/or within fourteen (14) days of the date of this order for current employment.

iii. Respondent shall not provide social work services or treatment in a direct patient care setting.

iv. It is Respondent's responsibility to arrange for written reports from her supervisor to be provided to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, beginning 90 days after employment as a social worker. These reports shall assess:

- a. Respondent's work performance,
- b. Describe the circumstances of Respondent's employment, including the nature and extent of Respondent's practice of social work,
- c. Confirm that Respondent has not provided social work services or treatment in a direct patient care setting
- d. Provide an opinion as to Respondent's ability to engage in safe practice of social work with accommodations and supervision,
- e. Any other information the Section requests.

iv. After the timely submission of four (4) consecutive satisfactory work reports, and with a written recommendation from the approved supervisor expressly supporting the request, Respondent may submit a request for the termination of this limitation.

c. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete twelve (12) hours of education on the topic of ethics and boundaries in social work practice.

i. Each course attended in satisfaction of this requirement must be pre-approved by the Section or its designee. Respondent shall be responsible for locating course(s) satisfactory to the Section for obtaining the required approval of the course(s) from the Section or its designee.

ii. Respondent must take and pass any exam offered for the courses.

iii. 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.

iv. 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 the Department, and may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.

4. Respondent is responsible for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this order, including the timely submission of reports by others. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any failures of the psychotherapist or supervisor to conform to the terms and conditions of this order. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any violations of any of the terms and conditions of this order by Respondent.

5. Respondent may petition the Section for full, unrestricted licensure upon demonstration of continuous, successful compliance with the terms of this order for at least one (1) year.

a. Any petition for termination of this order shall include:

i. A written recommendation from Respondent's psychotherapist confirming that all treatment goals have been met, that Respondent's mental disorder no longer precludes unrestricted, independent practice, and that she is able to engage in safe practice without supervision.

ii. A written recommendation from Respondent's approved supervisor that confirms she is capable of engaging in safe social work practice without supervision.

6. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the psychotherapy, and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this order. Being dropped from a program for non-payment is a violation of this order.

7. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this order, Respondent's credential may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has provided proof, which is determined by the Section or its designee to be sufficient, that Respondent is in compliance with the terms of this 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. Any requests, petitions, reports, and other information required by this order shall be mailed, emailed, faxed, or delivered to:

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
<https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov>

9. All other terms and conditions of the Final Decision and Order dated July 27, 2016 remain in full force and effect.

10. This Order is effective the date of its signing.

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

By: Kristen Kogers June 29, 2020
A Member of the Social Worker Section Date