

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/wscca>

- 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 PSYCHOLOGY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
SUSAN P. TRAFTON, ED.D.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER 0006624

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 PSY 013

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

Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D.
2169 N. 53rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Wisconsin Psychology 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 Psychology Examining Board (Board). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., (DOB XX-XX-1949) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice psychology, having license number 1764-57, first issued on January 19, 1993, and current through September 30, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a psychotherapist at a clinic (Clinic), located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

3. Patient A, during a telephone conversation with her psychiatrist, Psychiatrist B, indicated she did not want to see her previous psychotherapist, Respondent, because of past boundary crossings.

4. Patient A indicated that Respondent engaged in an inappropriate dual relationship with her which included spending time together outside of therapy in each other's homes and using alcohol and marijuana together.

5. Psychiatrist B referred Patient A to another facility and informed the owner of the Clinic of the alleged boundary crossing violations.

6. The owner of the Clinic commenced an investigation into the allegations and provided a grievance form to Patient A in order to facilitate the investigation and obtain more information.

7. On March 25, 2017, the owner of the Clinic received the completed grievance form and immediately forwarded the form to the Clinic's patient complaint representative (Representative).

8. On March 27, 2017, Respondent was placed on leave and was not allowed to see any further clients.

9. Respondent admitted to having a personal relationship with Patient A, which was inappropriate, and that twice in fall/winter of 2013/2014 Respondent smoked marijuana with Patient A.

10. Respondent indicated that her personal relationship ended with Patient A and their therapeutic relationship discontinued soon afterwards.

11. The Clinic's owner informed Respondent that she would continue to be suspended until she completed the following requirements: a psychological test to determine competency to work, a full medical checkup to ensure no medical conditions that would impair her judgment, and attendance at a course on boundary crossing and ethics.

12. Respondent was registered to attend a six (6) hour seminar on ethics for psychologists on June 8, 2017. Respondent stated she completed six (6) hours of education in "Exploring Ethical Challenges in the Therapeutic Relationship and Counseling Environment," which contained discussion on boundaries and violations, but she did not complete a self-contained course on the topics.

13. On May 30, 2017, Respondent completed a neuropsychological evaluation with a licensed psychologist, Psychologist C. The evaluation did not indicate any concern regarding cognitive change or dementia. The evaluation did not indicate any flags for significant psychopathology and Psychologist C did not believe Respondent would be a risk for a boundary violation in the future.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 455.09(1) 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, Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Psy 5.01(17), by engaging in any prohibited dual relationship or any relationship which is reasonably likely to impair the licensee's objectivity in providing professional services.

3. As a result of the above violation, Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 455.09(1)(g).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The license to practice psychology issued to Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., (license number 1764-57) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete eight (8) hours of education on the topic of boundaries offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board'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 Board 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 Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.

4. The license to practice psychology issued to Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., (license number 1764-57) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at her own expense, undergo a fitness for practice evaluation with a pre-approved psychiatrist or psychologist (Evaluator) who has not provided treatment to Respondent and is experienced in evaluating whether a health care professional is fit for practice:
 - i. Prior to evaluation, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Final Decision and Order to the Evaluator.
 - ii. Respondent shall identify and provide the Evaluator with authorizations to communicate with all physicians, mental health professionals, and facilities at which Respondent has been treated or evaluated.
 - iii. Within fifteen (15) days of the completion of the evaluation, a written report regarding the results of the assessment shall be submitted to the Department Monitor at the address below. The report shall address whether Respondent suffers from any condition(s) that may interfere with her ability to practice safely and competently and, if so, shall provide any recommended limitations for safe and competent practice.
 - iv. Respondent shall execute necessary documents authorizing the Division to obtain records of the evaluation, and to discuss Respondent and her case with the Evaluator. Respondent shall execute all releases necessary to permit disclosure of the final evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Certified copies of the final evaluation report shall be admissible in any future proceeding before the Board.
 - v. If the Evaluator determines that Respondent is not fit for practice or is fit for practice with limitations, the Board or its designee may suspend Respondent's license until Respondent provides proof sufficient to convince the Board or its designee that Respondent is able to practice with reasonable skill and safety of patients and the public and does not suffer from any condition which prevents Respondent from practicing in that manner.
 - vi. If the Evaluator determines that Respondent is fit for practice or is fit for practice with limitations, the Board or its designee may limit Respondent's license in a manner to address any concerns the Board or its designee has as a result of the conduct set out in the Findings of Fact and to address any recommendations resulting from the evaluation, including, but not limited to:

1. Psychotherapy, at Respondent's expense, by a therapist approved by the Board or its designee, to address specific treatment goals, with quarterly reports to the Board by the therapist.
 2. Additional professional education in any identified areas of deficiency.
 3. Restrictions on the nature of practice, practice setting, or requirements for supervision of practice by a professional approved by the Board, with periodic reports to the Board by the supervisor.
- b. Respondent is responsible for ensuring that the results of the evaluation are sent to the Department Monitor at the address below.
5. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$697.00.
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. 1764-57) to practice psychology in the state of Wisconsin may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Board 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.

WISCONSIN PSYCHOLOGY EXAMINING BOARD

by: Daniel Schraeder, Ph.D.
A Member of the Board

4/29/2020
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PSYCHOLOGY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

SUSAN P. TRAFTON, ED.D.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0006624

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 PSY 013

Respondent Susan P. Trafton, Ed.D., 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. Respondent is represented by Stacie Rosenzweig.
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board (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.

