

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

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
AMY M. EDWARDS, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., :
RESPONDENT. :

ORDER 0006632

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 CPC 051

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

Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C.
Middleton, WI 53562

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 Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., (DOB xx-xx-1973) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice professional counseling, having license number 6641-125, first issued on August 24, 2017, and current through February 28, 2021. Respondent is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a professional counselor training having license number 2360-226, first granted on January 5, 2015. This certificate expired on January 5, 2019 and has not been renewed. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Respondent retains the right to renew upon payment

of a fee until January 4, 2024¹. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is located in Middleton, Wisconsin.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a substance abuse counselor at a behavioral health facility (Facility), located in Madison, Wisconsin.

3. Sometime in 2016, Patient A asked Respondent to remove alcohol from Patient A's vehicle.

4. Respondent removed the alcohol from Patient A's vehicle, placed it in the trunk of her vehicle, and disposed of it at home. Respondent informed her supervisor of these actions the following day.

5. The employer did not have an on-call system and was unsure what to do with the alcohol as it was the end of the work day and she had no one she could contact for advice.

6. Around the same time as the above incident, Respondent gave Patient A her personal cell phone number during a situation Respondent describes as "desperate," in which she feared for Patient A's safety.

7. In August 2017, Respondent had an "unplanned run-in" with a former patient, Patient B, while going skydiving with her daughter. Patient B addressed Respondent first. Patient B then took a picture with Respondent, which Patient B posted to social media and tagged Respondent.

8. After another employee saw the above photo, Respondent untagged herself from the photo and adjusted her privacy settings.

9. 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, Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(13),

¹ Respondent is credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice clinical substance abuse counselor, having credential number 15981-132, first issued on December 17, 2015, and current through February 28, 2021. Respondent is also credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a substance abuse counselor in training having credential number 17047-130, first granted on December 17, 2015. This credential 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.

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 violations, Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The licenses to practice professional counseling issued to Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., and an appurtenant right to renew, (license numbers 6641-125 and 2360-226) are LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete four (4) hours of education on the topic of boundaries 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. Education completed to fulfill the requirements of any Order that may be entered in 17 RSA 028 may be used to fulfill the educational requirements of this Order.
- e. 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 six (6) months from the date of this Order, Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$ 400.00

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

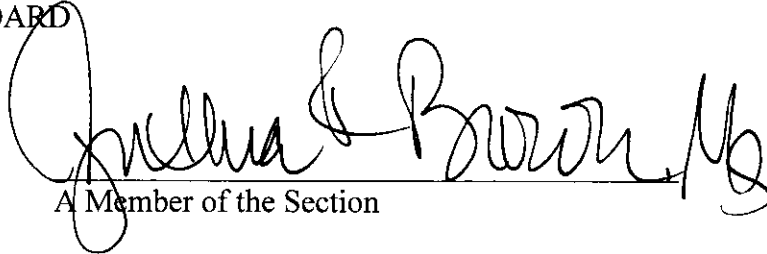
You may also submit this information online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System,
here:

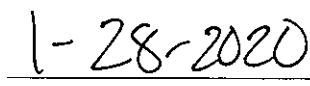
<https://app.wi.gov/DSPSMonitoring>

6. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's credentials (nos. 6641-125 and 2360-226) 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.

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:  _____
A Member of the Section

 _____
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

AMY M. EDWARDS, L.P.C., C.S.A.C.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0006632

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 CPC 051

Respondent Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.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 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.

Amy M. Edwards

Amy M. Edwards, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., Respondent
Middleton, WI 53562
License no. 6641-125 and 2360-226

01-16-2020

Date

Alicia M. Kennedy

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

1/17/2020

Date