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

STEVE A, SHEFCHIK, L.P.C., RESPONDENT.

ORDER 0006906

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 CPC 051

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

Steve A. Shefchik, L.P.C. Green Bay, WI 54303

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 Steve A. Shefchik, L.P.C., (DOB: xx/xx/1970) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice professional counseling, having license number 3954-125, first issued on September 11, 2007, and current through February 28, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

- 2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional counselor at a mental health clinic (Clinic) he owned, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- 3. On or around November 15, 2017, Respondent met with Patient A to provide an initial counseling session.
 - 4. Respondent and Patient A had at least two (2) additional counseling sessions.
- 5. Respondent did not create or maintain any records of these sessions other than limited personal notes.
- 6. Respondent submitted proof of 6.25 credit hours of continuing education for the 2015 through 2017 biennium, none of which were ethics credits.
- 7. On November 25, 2019, Respondent emailed the Department stating that he had taken sufficient credit hours of continuing education, but could not produce adequate evidence.
- 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, Respondent, engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 19.02(1) and (2), by failing to complete at least 30 continuing education credit hours in approved continuing education programs during each 2 year credential period with a minimum of 4 continuing education credit hours in the area of professional ethics and boundaries related to the practice of marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, or social work.
- 3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent, engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 19.05, by failing to maintain documentation of publication or certificates of attendance issued by the program sponsor for all continuing education programs for which the credential holder claims credit for purposes of renewal of the credential for a minimum of 4 years.
- 4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent, 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.
- 5. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent, engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(19), by violating any of the provisions of Wis. Stat. §457.

6. As a result of the above violations, Respondent, is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f).

ORDER

- 1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
- 2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.
- 3. The license to practice professional counseling issued to Respondent, (license number 3954-125) is LIMITED as follows:
 - a. Within 120 days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of ethics and three (3) hours on the topic of documentation offered by a provider pre-approved by the Section's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.
 - b. Within 120 of the date of this Order, Respondent must complete 24.75 continuing education credits, at least four (4) of which shall be on the topic of ethics and professional boundaries, complete the missing continuing education for the 2015-2017 biennium.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. The Board's monitoring liaison may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Respondent. The monitoring liaison may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.
 - f. 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, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$923.00.
- 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

<u>DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov</u>

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

https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov

- 6. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 3954-125) 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	5 cheidegger	C.P.	7/21/2020	
	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

STIPULATION

STEVE A, SHEFCHIK, L.P.C., RESPONDENT.

ORDER 0006906

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 CPC 051

Respondent Steve A. Shefchik, 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 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.

Steve A. Shefchik, L.P.C., Respondent

Green Bay, WI 54303 License no. 3954-125 2

Zachary Hetfield, Attorney

Department of Safety and Professional Services Division of Legal Services and Compliance

P.O. Box 7190

Madison, WI 53707-7190

5/15/20

Date