

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
SUSAN M. SEBASTIAN, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., I.C.S., :
RESPONDENT. :

ORDER 0006908

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 CPC 036

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

Susan M. Sebastian, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., I.C.S.
Beloit, WI 53511

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 Susan M. Sebastian, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., I.C.S., (DOB xx/xx/1955) is credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a licensed professional counselor, having

credential number 3734-125, first issued on June 12, 2006, and current through February 28, 2021.¹ Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is in Beloit, Wisconsin.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed at a county services program (Program), located in Rock County.

3. During October 2014, Respondent demonstrated signs of alcohol abuse at work and admitted a struggle with alcohol dependency.

4. On February 10, 2015, Respondent volunteered to participate in a treatment program for chemical dependency.

5. The conditions of the treatment program included:

- a. a provision that Respondent could be dismissed for violation of the program terms and
- b. a provision that dismissal and related violations could be referred to the Department for disciplinary action.

6. Respondent violated the terms of the program by testing positive for alcohol consumption twice and admitting to additional consumption in one other instance.

7. The Program's coordinator dismissed Respondent and referred the matter to the Department.

8. On April 21, 2020, Respondent opted to surrender her license in lieu of discipline.

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).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

¹ Respondent is also credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice clinical substance abuse counseling, having credential number 2050-132, first issued on February 28, 1997, and current through February 28, 2021. Respondent is credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as an independent clinical supervisor, having credential number 13768-135, first issued on April 13, 2005, and current through February 28, 2021.

2. The SURRENDER of the license to practice professional counseling in the state of Wisconsin issued to Respondent (license number 3734-125) is accepted.

3. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement as a professional counselor in the future, the Section may enter an order denying such petition without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a license and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any license shall be in the discretion of the Section.

4. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement of her license to practice professional counseling in the state of Wisconsin or applies for another credential with the Department, Respondent shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$398.00.

5. Respondent shall immediately return all indicia of Wisconsin licensure 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

6. 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 Scheidegger c.p.
A Member of the Section

7/21/2020
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 :

SUSAN M. SEBASTIAN, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., I.C.S., :
RESPONDENT. :

STIPULATION
ORDER UUU6909

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 CPC 036

Respondent Susan M. Sebastian, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., I.C.S., 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.

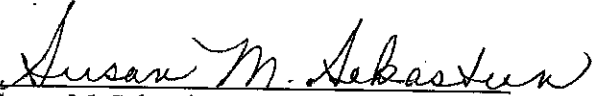
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Professional Counselor Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final 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.


Susan M. Sebastian, L.P.C., C.S.A.C., I.C.S., Respondent
Beloit, WI 53511
Credential nos. 13768-135 and 3734-125

6-10-2020
Date


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

6/11/2020
Date