

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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- 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/wscga>

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Correcting information on the DSPS website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact DSPS@wisconsin.gov

¹ At the time of the conduct at issue in this matter, Respondent was also licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a professional counselor in-training, having license number 3107-226, first issued on June 22, 2016, and expired as of June 22, 2020.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a substance abuse counselor in-training at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility (Facility) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

3. Patient A was admitted to the Facility on January 5, 2016, and was discharged on March 18, 2016.

4. From January 6 to March 18, 2016, Respondent acted as a case manager, interviewer, and counselor for Patient A. Respondent provided counseling services to Patient A and signed Patient A's intake documents, treatment plan, progress notes, urine analysis log, and discharge documents as his case manager or counselor.

5. In October 2016, Respondent's manager confronted Respondent regarding allegations of a personal relationship with Patient A. Respondent denied the allegations at that time.

6. On February 21, 2018, Patient A was found deceased in Respondent's residence.

7. On February 23, 2018, Respondent admitted to having had an intimate relationship with Patient A.

8. On February 26, 2018, the Facility terminated Respondent based on Respondent's failure to avoid a dual relationship with a client.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.88, 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 § SPS 164.01(2)(m), by engaging in inappropriate sexual conduct, exposure, gratification, or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 164.01(2)(n), by failing to avoid dual relationships or relationships that may impair the substance abuse professional's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

4. As a result of the violations noted in the Conclusions of Law, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.88(6).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. The certificate to practice as a substance abuse counselor in-training in the state of Wisconsin issued to Respondent (certificate no. 17571-130) is **SUSPENDED** for six (6) months from the date of this Order.
3. The certificate to practice as a substance abuse counselor in-training issued to Respondent (certificate no. 17571-130) is **LIMITED** as follows:
 - a. Within sixty (60) 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 Department or its designee. Certified copies of the final evaluation report shall be admissible in any future proceeding before the Department.
 - v. If the Evaluator determines that Respondent is not fit for practice or is fit for practice with limitations, the Department or its designee may suspend Respondent's license until Respondent provides proof sufficient to convince the Department 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 Department or its designee may limit Respondent's license in a manner to address any concerns the Department 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 Department or its designee, to address specific treatment goals, with quarterly reports to the Department 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 Department, with periodic reports to the Department by the supervisor.

4. The certificate to practice as a substance abuse counselor in-training issued to Respondent (certificate number 17571-130) is further 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 for counselors offered by a provider pre-approved by the Department, 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 Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
- d. The Department may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Respondent. The Department may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.

- e. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's certification after satisfying the Department or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all the ordered education.

5. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$807.00.

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 the Department's Monitoring Case Management System at

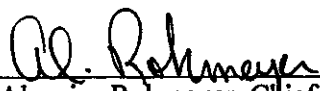
<https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov>

7. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's certificate (no. 17571-130) to practice as a substance abuse counselor in-training in the state of Wisconsin may, in the discretion of the Department or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Department 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. In the event that Respondent at any time applies with the Department for a license to practice as a professional counselor or a license to practice as a substance abuse counselor, the licensing authority may consider the facts and circumstances of this matter, the results of the fitness to practice assessment referenced in paragraph 3 above, and Respondent's compliance with this Order, when determining whether to issue a license to Respondent and/or whether to impose limitations on any such license.

9. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

By: 
Aloysius Rohmeyer, Chief Counsel
On Behalf of the Department

8-11-2020
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

TIFFANY L. ZIEGLER, S.A.C.-I.T.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: STIPULATION
:
:

ORDER 0006921

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 RSA 023

Respondent Tiffany L. Ziegler, S.A.C.-I.T., and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services, stipulate as follows:

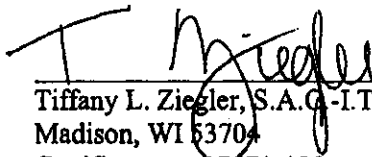
1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.
2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives 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 Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). 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 Department's Order, if adopted in the form as attached.
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Department, 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 Department, the parties agree not to contend that the Department 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 may appear before the Department, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that the Department may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Department adopt this Stipulation, the Department'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 that the Department adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



Tiffany L. Ziegler, S.A.G.-I.T., Respondent
Madison, WI 53704
Certificate no. 17571-130

08/07/2020

Date



Carley J. Peich Kiesling, Attorney
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

08/10/2020

Date