

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MICHELLE L. MESSICK, S.A.C.-I.T.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
: **ORDER 0007164**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 RSA 006

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

Michelle L. Messick, S.A.C.-I.T.,
Marshfield, WI 54449

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8368
Madison, WI 53708-8368

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). The Department has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Department adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Michelle L. Messick, S.A.C.-I.T., (DOB: XX/XX/1978) is certified in the state of Wisconsin as a substance abuse counselor in-training, having certification number 18329-130, first issued on September 25, 2017 and current through February 28, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is in Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449.

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

3. During a joint child abuse investigation, local and county officials received an emailed "summary" of an evaluation that Respondent purportedly conducted on the children and family.

4. This summary contains Respondent's opinions on the children's living conditions, credibility, family dynamics, and physical abuse allegations. The summary does not address any issues related to substance use or abuse.

5. Respondent concludes the summary by stating, "I will be continuing to see these boys."

6. Other than the abovementioned S.A.C.-I.T., Respondent possesses no other credential issued by the Department.

7. Respondent's clinical supervisor denies approving Respondent's contact with the children and family.

8. Respondent's clinical supervisor stated there were no records of the family consenting to the evaluation.

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), by engaging in any practice or behavior that violates the minimum standards of the profession necessary for the protection of the health, safety, or welfare of a patient or the public.

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)(f), by performing or offering to perform services for which the substance abuse professional is not qualified by education, training, or experience.

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 164.01(2)(v), by engaging in a single act of gross negligence or in a pattern of negligence as a substance abuse professional.

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

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.
3. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$758.00.
4. 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://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov>

5. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's certificate (no. 18329-130) to practice substance abuse counseling 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.

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

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

1/15/2021
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MICHELLE L. MESSICK, S.A.C.-I.T.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: STIPULATION
:
:

ORDER 0007164

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 RSA 006

Respondent Michelle L. Messick, 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.

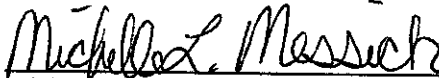
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Department, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the

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.


Michelle L. Messick, S.A.C.-I.T., Respondent
Marshfield, WI 54449
Certificate no. 18329-130

9/30/2020
Date


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

10/01/2020
Date