

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE SOCIAL WORKER 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
ERICA R. ERICKSON, A.P.S.W.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER 0007181

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 SOC 032

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

Erica R. Erickson, A.P.S.W.
Bloomer WI 54724

Social Worker 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 Social Worker 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. Erica Erickson, (Respondent) (Year of Birth 1973) is credentialed in the state of Wisconsin to practice advanced practice social work, having credential number 127190-121, first issued on January 30, 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 Bloomer, Wisconsin.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a social worker at a clinic (Clinic), located in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

3. On January 11, 2012, via Order number 0001303, Respondent's credential was suspended for four (4) weeks by the Section for entering into a dual relationship prohibited by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(13) and for disclosing confidential patient information within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code. § MPSW 20.02(10).

4. In October 2018, Respondent made threats to the Clinic to release defamatory information to the media unless Respondent was provided with a significant severance package from the Clinic. The Clinic contacted the police and an investigation ensued.

5. The information Respondent threatened to release was related to, and received from, her job duties as a social worker with the Clinic.

6. Respondent was terminated from employment by the Clinic on October 23, 2018, for allegedly threatening to take action against the Clinic to extort money.

7. On March 13, 2019, Respondent pled guilty in Eau Claire County Circuit Court case number 2018CF001762 to Threats to Communicate Derogatory Info, a felony, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.31. Respondent successfully completed a deferred prosecution agreement in this matter and as such, charges were dismissed on March 12, 2020.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Section has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26, 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 20.02(2), by violating a law, the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of social work.

3. 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 credential to practice advanced practice social work issued to Respondent (credential no. 127190-121), is 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 topics of ethics and professional responsibility 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. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's credential 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 \$634.00.

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

Respondent may also submit this information online at: <https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov>

6. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's credential (no. 127190-121) to practice advanced practice social work 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.

SOCIAL WORKER SECTION OF THE WISCONSIN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY,
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

By: Candace Coates LK
A Member of the Section

27 January 2021
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE SOCIAL WORKER SECTION OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

ERICA R. ERICKSON, A.P.S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007181

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 SOC 032

Respondent Erica R. Erickson, A.P.S.W. , 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 Social Worker 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.


Erica R. Erickson, A.P.S.W. Respondent
Bloomer, WI 54724
Credential no. 127190-121

12-17-2020
Date


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

12/17/2020
Date