

## 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

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
MCKENIN J. SALLIS, L.P.C.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	

**ORDER 0007187**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 CPC 039

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

McKenin J. Sallis, L.P.C.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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 McKenin J. Sallis, L.P.C. (DOB xx-xx-1991), is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice professional counseling, having license number 7245-125, first issued on February 1, 2019, and current through February 28, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional counselor at a correctional institution located in Portage, Wisconsin (Institution).

3. On June 24, 2019, an inmate reported to the Institution that Respondent was engaged in an inappropriate relationship with his cellmate, Inmate A.

4. Respondent was Inmate A's primary clinician and had met with Inmate A approximately 40 times for treatment sessions between February 2019 and June 2019.

5. The Institution investigated and discovered Respondent and Inmate A had exchanged 200 emails and 258 telephone calls between April 1, 2019 and June 24, 2019.

6. On June 25, 2019, Respondent admitted that she and Inmate A were engaged in a romantic relationship and resigned her position at the Institution.

7. The Institution found no evidence of a physical relationship between Respondent and Inmate A.

8. Upon release from the Institution, Inmate A went to live with Respondent. In June 2020, Respondent and Inmate A were married.

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).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(11) by engaging in sexual contact, sexual conduct, or any other behavior with a client which could reasonably be construed as seductive. For purposes of this rule, a person shall continue to be a client for 2 years after the termination of professional services.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(13) by failing to avoid dual relationships or relationships that may impair the credentialed person's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

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

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The license to practice professional counseling in the state of Wisconsin issued to Respondent (license number 7245-125) is SUSPENDED for thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

3. The license to practice professional counseling in the state of Wisconsin issued to Respondent (license number 7245-125) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall retain at her expense a professional mentor to supervise Respondent. The mentor shall be a licensed professional counselor in Wisconsin at the Master's level or higher with supervisory experience.
- b. Respondent shall be responsible for finding the professional mentor, providing the mentor's qualifications to the Department Monitor, and obtaining pre-approval of the mentor from the Section or its designee.
- c. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to the professional mentor. The professional mentor shall supervise Respondent's ability to practice professional counseling and abide by the rules of professional conduct by conducting weekly, one (1) hour check-ins with Respondent. The professional mentor may review any records as he or she deems appropriate in order to supervise Respondent.
- d. The professional mentor shall immediately notify the Department Monitor if he or she becomes aware of any violation of the rules of professional conduct by Respondent.
- e. Respondent shall notify the Department Monitor within fifteen (15) days of a change of employment and shall include an explanation of the reasons for the change.
- f. After two (2) years of supervision by the professional mentor, the Respondent may petition the Section for removal of the limitations and the return of full licensure. The petition shall include a report from the professional mentor summarizing Respondent's progress and confirming Respondent's ability to practice professional counseling without supervision. The Section may grant or deny any petition, in its discretion, or may modify this Order as it sees fit.

4. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$461.00.

5. All reports, petitions, and other documentation required by this Order, 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

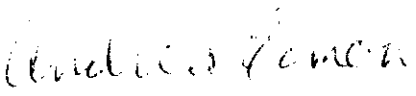
Respondent may also submit this information online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System, here:

<https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>

6. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (No. 7245-125) 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:   
A Member of the Section

26 January 2021  
Date

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

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MCKENIN J. SALLIS, L.P.C.,  
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007187

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 CPC 039

Respondent McKenin J. Sallis, 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. Respondent  
is represented in this matter by Attorney Susan A. Wagener.

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

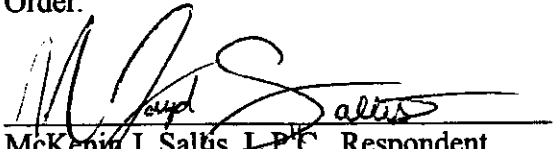
or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Section's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

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.

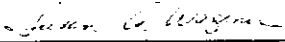
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Section ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Section in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's 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.

  
McKenna J. Salts, L.P.C., Respondent  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
License No. 7245-125

11/30/2020  
Date

  
Susan A. Wagener, Attorney for Respondent  
Hepler Broom LLC  
30 North LaSalle, Suite 2900  
Chicago, IL 60602

11/30/2020  
Date

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

11/30/2020  
Date