

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Safety and Professional Services from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Safety and Professional Services data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name* as it appears on the order.
- 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/wscca>

- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

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

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

SARAH N. REISER, L.P.C.-I.T.
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ORDER 0007341

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 CPC 056

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

Sarah N. Reiser, L.P.C.-I.T.
Shawano, WI 54166

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 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 Sarah N. Reiser, L.P.C.-I.T., (DOB XX/XX/1986) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice professional counseling in-training, having license number 3834-226, first issued on February 16, 2018, and current through February 16, 2022. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Shawano, Wisconsin.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as an outpatient therapist at a clinic (Clinic) located in Shawano, Wisconsin.

3. On September 20, 2019, a Clinic supervisor found Respondent asleep on the floor in Respondent's office with the alarm on Respondent's phone going off. The supervisor woke Respondent, and Respondent admitted that she uses alcohol to help her sleep and is aware that she has a problem. Respondent left work and did not interact with any clients on that day. As a result of this incident, Respondent agreed to a corrective plan of action which included self-reporting as an impaired professional to the Department.

4. On October 1, 2019, Respondent applied for the Professional Assistance Program (PAP) through the Department. Respondent reported that she took two prescribed anti-anxiety pills at work on September 20, 2019, fell asleep at her desk, and that her anxiety had worsened due to alcohol use.

5. On October 24, 2019, while working at the Clinic, Respondent consumed alcohol in her vehicle during her lunch break. After a coworker reported that Respondent appeared to be under the influence, Respondent was taken to a hospital for a drug screen. Respondent completed a breath test, with initial results of a .354 Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). Fifteen minutes later, a second test resulted in .336 BAC.

6. On October 25, 2019, Respondent resigned from her position at the Clinic.

7. On November 12, 2019, Respondent informed the Department that she no longer worked for the employer that referred her to PAP and withdrew her PAP application.

8. 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 engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(9), by practicing or attempting to practice while the credential holder is impaired due to the utilization of alcohol or other drugs, or as a result of an illness which impairs the credential holder's ability to appropriately carry out the functions delineated under the credential in a manner consistent with the safety of a client, patient, or the public.

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 license to practice professional counseling in-training in the state of Wisconsin issued to Respondent (license number 3834-226) is LIMITED as follows:
 - a. For a period of at least five (5) years from the date of this Order:
 - i. Respondent shall enroll and participate in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department (Approved Program). Enrollment shall occur within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this Order.
 - ii. At the time Respondent enrolls in the Approved Program, Respondent shall review all of the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
 1. Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends, and holidays.
 2. Production of a urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen at a collection site designated by the Approved Program within five (5) hours of notification of a test.
 3. The Approved Program shall require the testing of specimens at a frequency of not less than forty-nine (49) times per year, for at least the first year of this Order. Thereafter, the Board may adjust the frequency of testing on its own initiative at any time.
 - iii. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
 - iv. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Wis. Stat. § 961.01(4), except when prescribed, dispensed, or administered by a practitioner for a legitimate medical condition. Respondent shall disclose Respondent's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Respondent shall at the time the controlled substance is ordered immediately sign a release in compliance with state and federal laws authorizing the practitioner to discuss

Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, the Board or its designee. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

- v. Respondent shall report to the Department Monitor all prescription medications and drugs taken by Respondent. Reports must be received within 24 hours of ingestion or administration of the medication or drug, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. Each time the prescription is filled or refilled, Respondent shall immediately arrange for the prescriber or pharmacy to fax and mail copies of all prescriptions to the Department Monitor.
- vi. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with a list of over-the-counter medications and drugs that she may take from time to time. Over-the-counter medications and drugs that mask the consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation, shall not be taken unless ordered by a physician, in which case the drug must be reported as described in the paragraph 3(a)v.
- vii. All positive test results are presumed valid and may result in automatic suspension of licensure by the Board or the Board's designee. Respondent must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing, fault in the chain of custody or other valid defense.
- viii. If any urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva, or other specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Respondent shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as the Board or its designee shall determine to be appropriate to clarify or confirm the positive or suspected positive test results.
- ix. Respondent shall practice only in a work setting pre-approved by the Section or its designee.
- x. Respondent shall provide her professional counseling employer with a copy of this Order before engaging in any professional counseling employment. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with written acknowledgment from each professional counseling employer that a copy of this Order has been received. Such acknowledgment shall be provided to the Department Monitor within fourteen (14) days of beginning new employment and/or within fourteen (14) days of the date of this Order for employment current as of the date of this Order.

4. The Section or its designee may, without hearing, suspend Respondent's license upon receipt of information that Respondent is in substantial or repeated violation of any provision of this Order. A substantial violation includes, but is not limited to, a positive drug screen. A repeated violation is defined as the multiple violations of the same provision or violation of more than one provision. The Section or its designee may, in conjunction with the suspension, prohibit Respondent from seeking termination of the suspension for a specified period of time.

5. The Section or its designee may terminate the suspension if provided with sufficient information that Respondent is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the suspension to be terminated. Whether to terminate the suspension shall be wholly in the discretion of the Section or its designee.

6. After the first year from the date of this Order, Respondent may petition the Section on an annual basis for a modification of the terms of this Order. After five (5) consecutive years of successful compliance, the Respondent may petition the Section for return of full licensure. The Section may grant or deny any petition, in its discretion, or may modify this Order as it sees fit.

7. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$1,200.00.

8. Any requests, documents, 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://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>

9. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 3834-226) to practice professional counselor in-training 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.

10. 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: Andria Simon
A Member of the Board

20 April 2021
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

SARAH N. REISER, L.P.C.-I.T.
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007341

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 CPC 056

Respondent Sarah N. Reiser, L.P.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.

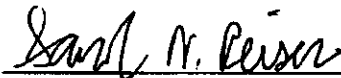
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Professional Counselor Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision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



Sarah N. Reiser, L.P.C.-I.T., Respondent
Shawano, WI 54166
License No. 3834-226

2.11.21

Date



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

2/11/21

Date