

## 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](mailto:DSPS@wisconsin.gov)

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

ROBERT E. HANSON, L.C.S.W.,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
:  
:  
:  
:

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

**ORDER 0007836**

---

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 SOC 031

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

Robert E. Hanson, L.C.S.W.  
La Crescent, MN 55947

Wisconsin Social Worker Section of the 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 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 Robert E. Hanson, L.C.S.W., (Year of Birth 1965) is certified by the state of Wisconsin as a licensed clinical social worker, having certificate number 7736-123, first issued on March 18, 2011, and current through February 28, 2023. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in La Crescent, Minnesota 55947.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a clinical social worker in the emergency department (ED) at a hospital in La Crosse, Wisconsin (Hospital). Part of his role in the ED was to coordinate patients' discharge needs, including transportation.

3. On April 1, 2021 at approximately 10:30 p.m., Patient A, a female born in 1972 with a history of sexual abuse and mental illness, was discharged from the ED. Respondent had been acquainted with Patient A for twenty years. He initially met her outside the Hospital and became more acquainted with her during her visits to the ED.

4. Respondent provided Patient A with the telephone number of a transportation service to take her home. Respondent got Patient A a cup of coffee and a warm coat and shoes while she waited. When the taxi did not arrive, Respondent called the taxi service to follow up, but they were running behind.

5. Respondent offered Patient A a ride home after his shift in the ED was over at 3:00 a.m. on April 2, 2021. Respondent and Patient A drove around and talked for three hours. Respondent told Patient A on the ride home he was concerned about how people would perceive their interaction and said they needed to be careful if they were to pursue a closer friendship.

6. From the early morning hours of April 3, 2021 to the late afternoon of April 4, 2021, Patient A visited Respondent at his home where they engaged in sexual activities.

7. After Patient A made allegations to the Hospital, Respondent was placed on administrative leave. He resigned his employment on April 12, 2021.

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(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. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f) and (h), and Wis. Admin. Code Chapter MPSW 20.

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent's certificate to practice as a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Wisconsin (certificate number 7736-123) is **SUSPENDED** for ninety (90) days from the date of this Order.

3. Respondent's certificate to practice as a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Wisconsin (certificate number 7736-123) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at his own expense, successfully complete twelve (12) hours of education on the topic of ethics and professional boundaries with an emphasis on professional relationships, dual relationships, client rights, and self-care offered by a provider pre-approved by the Section monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the course(s).
- b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the education in the form of verification from the institution(s) providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. 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.
- c. The Section monitoring liaison may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Respondent. The monitoring liaison may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.
- d. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's certificate after satisfying the Section or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all the ordered education.

4. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$998.00.

5. Any requests, petitions, payments of costs (made payable to Department of Safety and Professional Services), and other information required by this Order shall be submitted to:

Department Monitor  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190  
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264  
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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

6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's certificate (number 7736-123), or Respondent's right to renew his certificate, 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.

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

By: Sherry A. Yang  
A Member of the Section

2/11/2022  
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

ROBERT E. HANSON, L.C.S.W.,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:

STIPULATION

**ORDER 0007836**

---

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 SOC 031

Respondent Robert E. Hanson, L.C.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. Respondent is represented by Attorney Joseph G. Veenstra.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Social Worker 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.

Robert E. Hanson, L.C.S.W., Respondent  
La Crescent, MN 55947  
Certificate No. 7736-123

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph G. Veenstra, Attorney for Respondent  
Johns, Flaherty & Collins, S.C.  
205 5th Ave. S., Suite 600  
La Crosse, WI 54601

11/5/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

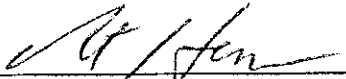
11/5/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Hanson, L.C.S.W., Respondent  
La Crescent, MN 55947  
Certificate No. 7736-123

8-13-21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date