### 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

JODI L. GUSTKE, L.S.W., RESPONDENT.

ORDER 0007841

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 SOC 056

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

Jodi L. Gustke, L.S.W. Wautoma, WI 54982

Wisconsin Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examing 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 Examing 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 Jodi L. Gustke, L.S.W., (Year of Birth 1981) is certified in the state of Wisconsin as a social worker, having certificate number 9846-120, first issued on May 7, 2009, 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 Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982.
- 2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a social worker at a Department of Corrections (DOC) institution located in Redgranite, Wisconsin (RCI).

- 3. On December 4, 2020, the Department received a complaint that alleged Respondent delivered a cell phone to an inmate at RCI, engaged in sexually based conversations with the inmate on social media, and sent nude photos of herself to the inmate. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance (Division) opened case number 20 SOC 056 to investigate these allegations.
- 4. On November 4, 2020, Respondent had been put on administrative leave pending RCI's investigation of the alleged misconduct. On November 20, 2020, Respondent resigned from her position as a social worker while under RCI investigation.
- 5. On May 27, 2021, Respondent was charged with one count of Deliver Illegal Articles to Inmates, a class I felony, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 302.095(2)(a)1., in Waushara County Circuit Court Case Number 2021CF000112. That case is pending.
- 6. Respondent does not intend to practice as a social worker in the future and desires to surrender her license in lieu of proceeding with further investigation of this matter.
- 7. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusion of Law and Order.

#### **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

1. The Social Worker 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 and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

#### ORDER

- 1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
- 2. The VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Respondent's certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin (certificate no. 9846-120), as well as her right to renew such certificate, is hereby accepted.
- 3. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement of her certificate to practice social work, the Section may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a certificate and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any certificate granted shall be in the sole discretion of the Section.
- 4. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement of her certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin, or applies for another credential under Wis. Stat. chs. 440 through 480, Respondent shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$967.00, before any petition or application for a credential will be considered by the applicable board, section or Department.

5. 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

Ву:	shery A. yang	2/11/2022
	A Member of the Section	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

:

**STIPULATION** 

JODI L. GUSTKE, L.S.W., RESPONDENT.

ORDER 0007841

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 SOC 056

Respondent Jodi L. Gustke, L.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 Wisconsin Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examing 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.
- 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.

Jodi L. Gustke, L.S.W., Respondent

Wautoma, WI 54982 Certificate No. 9846-120

09/16/2021

Date

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