

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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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>

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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

ERICA C. MAURER, L.C.S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ORDER 0007842

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 SOC 069

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

Erica C. Maurer, L.C.S.W.
New Berlin, WI 53151

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. Erica C. Maurer, L.C.S.W. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1991) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a licensed clinical social worker, having license number 8699-123, first issued on February 20, 2017 and was set to expire on February 28, 2021. Pursuant to Wisconsin Emergency Order #2, all health care professional licenses remain active beyond expiration until 30 days after the expiration of the Emergency Order. If the license remains expired after that date, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Respondent retains the right to renew upon payment of a fee until February 27, 2026.

2. Respondent is also certified in the state of Wisconsin as an advanced practice social worker, having certificate number 129434-121, first issued on July 3, 2014. This license expired on February 28, 2017. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Respondent retains the right to renew upon payment of a fee until February 27, 2022.

3. Respondent moved out of Wisconsin. As such, Respondent has no intention of renewing either of her Wisconsin credentials.

4. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151.

5. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a clinical social worker with an agency in Walworth County, Wisconsin (Agency).

6. On October 1, 2019, the Department received a complaint from the Agency stating their records, including text messages and information obtained from a school, strongly suggested that Respondent engaged in a dual relationships with a 15-year-old and a 17-year-old client. The Agency believed some of the information suggested the relationship with the 17-year-old was romantic, but the Department is unable to prove that allegation.

7. The Agency also referred the case over to the Walworth County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) for investigation. A detective from the WCSO obtained copies of text messages from Respondent's work phone at the Agency. No criminal charges have been issued, but the detective provided copies of the text messages to a Department Investigator.

8. The text messages are the basis for the allegation that Respondent engaged in, at minimum, a dual relationship with a client or clients.

9. Respondent neither admits nor denies the allegations but in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation, Respondent does not contest the entry of this Order.

10. 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 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.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin Code § MPSW 20.02(22), by committing gross negligence in practice in a single instance, or negligence in practice in more than one instance.

4. As a result of the above violations, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26.

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The VOLUNTARY SURRENDER by Respondent of her license to practice as a clinical social worker in the state of Wisconsin (license no. 8699-123), as well as her right to renew such license, are accepted.

3. The VOLUNTARY SURRENDER by Respondent of her right to renew her certificate to practice as an advanced practice social worker in the state of Wisconsin (certificate no. 129434-121) is accepted.

4. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement of her license to practice as a clinical social worker in the state of Wisconsin or applies for another credential in the state of Wisconsin under Wis. Stat. chs. 440 through 480, Respondent shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$2,542.00, before any petition or application for a credential will be considered by the applicable board or Department.

5. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement as a clinical social worker or advanced practice social worker, the Section may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a license and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any license granted shall be in the sole discretion of the Section and such decision is not reviewable.

4. 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:

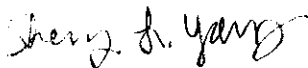
Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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

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

By:



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

ERICA C. MAURER, L.C.S.W.,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007842

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 SOC 069

Erica C. Maurer, L.C.S.W. (Respondent), 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 Thomas Halloran.

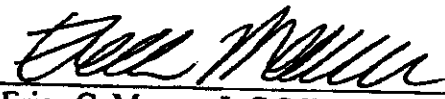
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision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

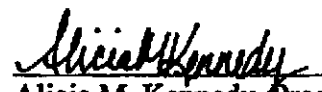
8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Section adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.


Erica C. Maurer, L.C.S.W., Respondent
New Berlin, WI 53151
License No. 8699-123
Certificate No. 129434-121

8/26/2021
Date


Thomas Halloran, Attorney for Respondent
Halloran Law Offices
10689 Commodore Circle, #702
Sister Bay, WI 54234

8/27/2021
Date


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

08/27/2021
Date