

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

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JEFFREY A. AHONEN, L.P.C.-I.T., C.S.A.C.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

:
:
ORDER 0008040

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 CPC 019

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

Jeffrey A. Ahonen, L.P.C.-I.T., C.S.A.C.
Ladysmith, WI 54848

Professional Counselor 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 Professional Counselor 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. Jeffrey A. Ahonen, L.P.C.-I.T., C.S.A.C. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1960) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a professional counselor-in-training, having license number 4497-226, first issued on October 22, 2019 and current through October 22, 2023.¹

¹ Respondent is also certified to practice as a clinical substance abuse counselor, having certificate number 16426-132, first issued on February 28, 2020 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 Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848.

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

3. While employed at the Clinic, from December 10, 2018 to May 10, 2020, Respondent failed to document client services in a timely manner.

4. Corrective action was taken by the Clinic on February 26, 2020, and Respondent was suspended from seeing clients and given one week to complete any missing documentation. Respondent failed to complete the missing documentation within one week.

5. On May 10, 2020, Respondent was terminated from the clinic for failure to document.

6. On May 10, 2021, Respondent reported to the Department that he may have an underlying mental health condition that adversely affects his ability to perform certain aspects of his work.

7. 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 failed to maintain adequate records relating to services provided a client in the course of a professional relationship within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(18).

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

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

3. The license issued to Respondent (license no. 4497-226) to practice as a professional counselor-in-training, is LIMITED as follows:

a. For a period of at least one (1) year from the date of this Order:

i. It is Respondent's responsibility to arrange for quarterly written reports to be submitted to the Department Monitor from his supervisor at each setting in which Respondent practiced professional counseling in the

previous quarter. These reports shall be submitted as directed by the Department Monitor, and shall assess Respondent's documentation proficiency, and shall include the number of hours of active professional counseling practice worked during that quarter. If a report indicates less than satisfactory documentation proficiency, the Section may institute appropriate corrective limitations in its discretion.

- ii. Any work reports submitted to fulfill the requirements of any Order that may be entered in Division of Legal Services and Compliance case number 20 RSA 013 may be used to fulfill the work report requirements of this order.
- b. Within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at his own expense, undergo a fitness for practice evaluation with a pre-approved psychiatrist or psychologist (Evaluator) who has not provided treatment to Respondent and is experienced in evaluating whether a health care professional is fit to practice:
- i. Prior to evaluation, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Final Decision and Order to the Evaluator.
 - ii. Respondent shall identify and provide the Evaluator with authorizations to communicate with all physicians, mental health professionals, and facilities at which Respondent has been treated or evaluated.
 - iii. Within fifteen (15) days of the completion of the evaluation, a written report regarding the results of the assessment shall be submitted to the Department Monitor at the address below. The report shall address whether Respondent suffers from any condition(s) that may interfere with his ability to practice safely and competently and, if so, shall provide any recommended limitations for safe and competent practice.
 - iv. Respondent shall execute necessary documents authorizing the Division to obtain records of the evaluation, and to discuss Respondent and his case with the Evaluator. Respondent shall execute all releases necessary to permit disclosure of the final evaluation report to the Section or its designee. Certified copies of the final evaluation report shall be admissible in any future proceeding before the Section.
 - v. If the Evaluator determines that Respondent is not fit to practice or is fit for practice with limitations, the Section or its designee may suspend Respondent's license until Respondent provides proof sufficient to convince the Section or its designee that Respondent is able to practice with reasonable skill and safety of patients and the public and does not suffer from any condition which prevents Respondent from practicing in that manner.

vi. If the Evaluator determines that Respondent is fit to practice or is fit to practice with limitations, the Section or its designee may limit Respondent's license in a manner to address any concerns the Section or its designee has as a result of the conduct set out in the Findings of Fact and to address any recommendations resulting from the evaluation, including, but not limited to:

1. Psychotherapy, at Respondent's expense, by a therapist approved by the Section or its designee, to address specific treatment goals, with quarterly reports to the Section by the therapist.
2. Additional professional education in any identified areas of deficiency.
3. Restrictions on the nature of practice, practice setting, or requirements for supervision of practice by a professional approved by the Section, with periodic reports to the Section by the supervisor.

vii. Respondent is responsible for ensuring that the results of the evaluation are sent to the Department Monitor.

viii. Any fitness to practice evaluation undergone to fulfill the requirements of any Order that may be entered in Division of Legal Services and Compliance case number 21 RSA 013 may be used to fulfill the fitness to practice evaluation requirements of this order.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$527.00.

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:

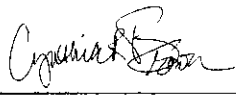
Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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

6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (license no. 4497-226), or Respondent's right to renew his license, 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 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING
BOARD

By: 
A Member of the Section

7/19/2022
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

JEFFREY A. AHONEN, L.P.C.-I.T., C.S.A.C.,
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

ORDER 0008040

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 CPC 019

Jeffrey A. Ahonen, L.P.C.-I.T., C.S.A.C. (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.

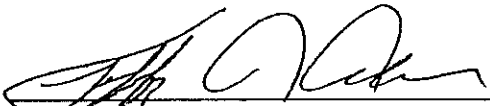
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Professional Counselor Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final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


Jeffrey A. Ahonen, L.P.C.-I.T., C.S.A.C., Respondent
Ladysmith, WI 54848
License No. 4497-226

10/4/2021
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

10/20/21
Date