

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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1. Licensee Sylvia M. Cohen, L.P.C., (Year of Birth 1966) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice professional counseling, having license number 3432-125, first issued on April 21, 2004 and current through February 28, 2023. Licensee's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53225.

## **19 CPC 010**

2. Licensee began working with Patient A in February 2018. Patient A was diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder (DID) and Licensee collaborated with Patient A's psychiatric support team.

3. On February 17, 2019, Licensee accompanied Patient A to Froedtert Hospital after Patient A reported suffering a sexual assault.

4. Licensee asserts that Patient A was highly traumatized and acknowledges leaning across the bed, over the guard railing, and kissing Patient A's forehead while at the hospital. Licensee stated in her response that this was her way of trying to soothe the "'littles' [child alters] who I could see and hear surfacing." Licensee reported to have identified two specific "littles" who were "rapidly switching, crying, and having violent body memories and flashbacks." During the pendency of this action, Licensee clarified that this was her way of soothing the child alters that, given her familiarity with them, she could hear and identify surfacing during Patient A's time of extreme distress.

## **20 CPC 036**

5. On June 30, 2020, Licensee drove Patient A from Wisconsin to Texas because Patient A was accepted to a facility in Denton, Texas (Facility) for stabilization services.

6. At the time of Patient A's admission to the Facility, Licensee reports that Patient A had been actively suicidal for at least the prior three months with her most recent suicide attempt on May 26, 2020.

7. During the trip, Licensee stayed at an Airbnb in Missouri with Patient A, sharing a room.

8. Licensee stated, "To not stay in the same room with [Patient A] would have been clinically irresponsible" given Patient A's suicide risk and trauma history.

9. On July 1, 2020, Licensee and Patient A arrived at the Facility and met with Complainant. During the initial assessment, Complainant reported that Licensee groped Patient A's knee, laid her head on Patient A, and answered questions with "we."

10. In response to the allegations during the initial assessment, Licensee denies that she "groped" Patient A and asserts that her use of the pronoun "we" was appropriate and grammatically correct. Licensee stated Patient A had experienced violent flashbacks and "body memories" which stem from past traumatic experiences. Sometimes these actions overwhelm Patient A and she is unable to control her body as well as she would like, therefore Licensee does what she can to prevent Patient A from unwittingly harming herself. Licensee asserts that any physical contact with Patient A during the initial assessment was in an effort to reassure Patient A and prevent her from harming herself.

11. Licensee is not licensed in any state other than Wisconsin.

12. In resolution of this matter, Licensee consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Professional Counselor Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. During the pendency of this action, Licensee provided course completion documentation for the following education:
  - a. "Time Effective Intervention Techniques for Crisis Management in the Treatment of Dissociative Disorders," provided by CE Learning Systems, 1.5 credit hours.
  - b. "Transference, Countertransference, and Reenactment in Therapy," provided by CE Learning Systems, 1.5 credit hours.
  - c. "Boundaries in Clinical Practice: Top Ethical Challenges," provided by PESI, Inc., 5.75 credit hours.
  - d. "Treatment Considerations for Youth with Serious Emotional Disturbances and Serious Mental Illnesses and Co-occurring Substance Use," provided by Quantum Units Education, 2 credit hours.
3. The Section accepts the above continuing education Licensee Sylvia M. Cohen, L.P.C., has already completed as satisfying the education the Section would have otherwise ordered.
4. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

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

By: Al Rohn ~~DSPS Chief Legal Counsel,~~ 7/25/2022  
~~A Member of the Section, Delegate~~ 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 THE LICENSE OF

SYLVIA M. COHEN, L.P.C.,  
LICENSEE.

STIPULATION

**ORDER 0008051**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Nos. 19 CPC 010 and 20 CPC 036

Sylvia M. Cohen, L.P.C. (Licensee) 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. Licensee consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Licensee understands that by signing this Stipulation, Licensee voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Licensee, 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 Licensee;
- the right to call witnesses on Licensee's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Licensee'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 Licensee under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Licensee is aware of Licensee's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Licensee is represented by Attorney Mario Mendoza.


4. Licensee agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education 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 for Remedial Education without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Licensee 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 Licensee or Licensee'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 for Remedial Education.

7. Licensee is informed that should the Section adopt this Stipulation, the Section's Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.


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

  
Sylvia M. Cohen, L.P.C., Licensee  
Milwaukee, WI 53225  
License No. 3432-125

4/6/2022  
Date

  
Mario Mendoza, Attorney for Licensee  
Murphy Desmond, SC  
33 East Main Street, Suite 500  
Madison, WI 53703

April 7, 2022  
Date

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

4/7/22  
Date