

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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

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IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR  
RENEWAL OF A  
ADVANCED PRACTICE SOCIAL WORKER  
CREDENTIAL

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ORDER GRANTING  
LIMITED LICENSE

VANESSA M. OLD COYOTE,  
APPLICANT.

**ORDER 0008690**

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

Vanessa M. Old Coyote  
Milwaukee, WI 53220

Social Worker Section  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the resolution of this renewal application. The Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section) adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about February 15, 2021, Vanessa M. Old Coyote (Applicant) filed application #IA-36312 to renew her Advanced Practice Social Worker credential (#131639-121).

2. Department records demonstrate that Applicant has the following prior criminal history reviewed by the Section:

- A. On or about February 15, 2017 – Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) 1<sup>st</sup>, an ordinance violation.
  - i. Applicant reported drinking roughly nine (9) standard drinks with a friend over a five (5) hour period. Due to previous personal experiences with sexual abuse, Applicant chose to not sleep at her friend's residence as Applicant did not feel safe sleeping there.

- ii. Applicant completed an Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) assessment which found Alcohol Dependency. Applicant was required to complete four (4) months of outpatient treatment.
- iii. Despite Applicant's Dependency finding, Applicant continued to consume alcohol.
- iv. In connection with this OWI, Applicant provided a statement to the Section that Applicant's OWI gave her an opportunity to seek counseling for childhood trauma that she never fully addressed. Applicant further stated that she learned healthy coping mechanisms and that she learned from her past mistakes.

3. Information gathered with Applicant's current renewal application demonstrates the following:

- A. On or about September 8, 2021 – Disorderly Conduct, an ordinance violation.
  - i. The complaint states that, at approximately 7:30 a.m., police were dispatched to a campground for a report of a female walking through other people's campsites swearing, yelling, and being outright disorderly.
  - ii. Police observed that Applicant was staggering left and right, unable to stand on her own. Applicant continued to swear and yell racial slurs. Applicant's speech was slurred and difficult to understand, police smelled the odor of intoxicants on Applicant's breath as she spoke, and Applicant admitted drinking. Applicant blew a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) of .199. Applicant paid a fine.
  - iii. Applicant stated she felt remorse about becoming over intoxicated and disturbing other people's getaway times.
  - iv. Applicant stated she presented to the American Indian Council on Alcoholism (AICA) for emergent counseling sessions for her alcohol use. Applicant further stated stressors that led her to over drink included stress related due to the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of drinking and lack of socialization prior to the incident, updates on child burials found at Indian boarding schools, infertility, and deaths of family members. Applicant further noted she believes she did not comply with police officers' recommendations to sleep due to Applicant's fear of sexual abuse since she has a history of sexual assault. Applicant stated she believes her comments about race were also related to her sexual assault by a white male, and/or recent frustrations with police brutality, missing

and murdered indigenous women/relatives, and her upbringing on the Oneida Reservation, Bad River Reservation, and inner-city Milwaukee. Applicant again stated that she was raised with a lot of trauma and experienced physical abuse, poverty, neglect, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and also witnessed domestic violence, divorce, racism, and substance use.

- v. Applicant stated she is currently sober due to being pregnant. Prior to pregnancy Applicant drank socially, roughly one to four (1-4) drinks per sitting. Applicant further stated that she and her AODA counselor focused on responsible intake rather than full sobriety to prevent the increased personal and social pressure and stress with sobriety, especially with Wisconsin culture.
- vi. Applicant stated since this event in June 2021, she prioritized self-care. Applicant also stated that she remains personally responsible for her triggers and trauma responses, and she prioritizes selfcare, safe alcohol consumption, education, and connection.

4. The above information demonstrates that in connection with Applicant's Disorderly Conduct violation, Applicant again over imbibed, used alcohol as an unhealthy coping mechanism rather than healthy coping mechanisms she reportedly learned from her prior treatment, Applicant again noted similar trauma as an underlying factor in her behavior, and raises concerns that Applicant did not learn her lesson from her earlier legal transgressions. As a result, on April 25, 2023, the Section requested Applicant undergo an AODA assessment.

A. Applicant's AODA assessment dated June 7, 2023, noted the following:

- i. Applicant was diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder, Mild, in early or sustained remission. Applicant has not consumed alcohol since January 1, 2023, due to her pregnancy.
- ii. Applicant reported her behavior displayed when receiving her Disorderly Conduct citation was due to past trauma. However, based on this assessment, the Assessor found Applicant was attempting to justify being intoxicated,
- iii. The Assessor does not believe Applicant is a threat to herself or to other, however, Applicant makes bad choices when she consumes alcohol,
- iv. The Assessor recommends Applicant continue to refrain from alcohol use during and after her pregnancy,
- v. Applicant's prognosis is good at this time as long as she continues to refrain from alcohol and attend her tribal support group (healing circle).

5. In resolution of this matter, Applicant 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. §§ 457.08(2), 457.20, and is authorized to enter the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 15.08(5)(c) and 227.44(5).

2. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(4), the Section may deny a renewal if it is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

3. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(f), the Section may deny or limit a credential if Applicant engaged in unprofessional or unethical conduct in violation of the code of ethics established in the rules promulgated under § 457.03(2).

4. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(h), the Section may deny or limit a credential if Applicant Violated Wis. Stat. ch. 457 or any rule promulgated under this chapter.

5. Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(9), it is unprofessional conduct to practice or attempt to practice while the credential holder is impaired due to the utilization of alcohol or other drugs, or as a result of an illness which impairs the credential holder's ability to appropriately carry out the functions delineated under the credential in a manner consistent with the safety of a client, patient, or the public.

6. Applicant's alcohol use disorder is an illness which impairs Applicant's ability to appropriately carry out the functions delineated under the credential in a manner consistent with the safety of a client, patient, or the public.

7. Applicant's alcohol use disorder and less than one (1) year of sobriety, render denial of unlimited renewal of Applicant's credential necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

8. As a result of the above conduct, Applicant is subject to limitations on her credential pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 440.08(4), 457.26(2)(f) and 457.26(2)(h), and Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(9).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Limitations upon Applicant's Advanced Practice Social Worker credential are necessary to ensure that she is fit and competent to practice as a Advanced Practice Social Worker.

3. Applicant's ability to practice as an Advanced Practice Social Worker in the state of Wisconsin is LIMITED as follows:

- A. For a period of at least one (1) year from the date of this Order Applicant shall comply with the following requirement relating to drug and alcohol monitoring:
- i. Within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order, Applicant shall enroll and participate in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department (Approved Program).
  - ii. At the time Applicant enrolls in the Approved Program, Applicant shall review the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
    1. Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends and holidays.
    2. Production of a urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen at a collection site designated by the Approved Program within five (5) hours of notification of a test.
    3. The Approved Program shall require the testing of specimens at a frequency of not less than twenty-eight (28) times per year, (one (1) of which may be a hair test at the Section's discretion) for at least the first year of this Order. Thereafter, the Section may adjust the frequency of testing on its own initiative at any time.
  - iii. Applicant shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
  - iv. Applicant shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Wis. Stat. § 961.01(4), except when prescribed, dispensed or administered by a practitioner for a legitimate medical condition. Applicant shall disclose Applicant's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Applicant shall at the time the controlled substance is ordered immediately sign a release in compliance with state and federal laws authorizing the practitioner to discuss Applicant's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, the Section or its designee. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department of Safety and Professional Services Monitor (Department Monitor).

- v. Applicant shall report to the Department Monitor all prescription medications and drugs taken by Applicant. Reports must be received within twenty-four (24) hours of ingestion or administration of the medication or drug, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. Each time the prescription is filled or refilled, Applicant shall immediately arrange for the prescriber or pharmacy to fax and mail copies of all prescriptions to the Department Monitor.
  - vi. Applicant shall provide the Department Monitor with a list of over-the-counter medications and drugs that she may take from time to time. Over-the-counter medications and drugs that mask the consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Applicant's treatment and rehabilitation, shall not be taken unless ordered by a physician, in which case the drug must be reported as described in the paragraph 3.A.v.
  - vii. All positive test results are presumed valid and may result in automatic suspension of licensure by the Section or the Section's designee. Applicant must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing, fault in the chain of custody or other valid defense.
  - viii. If any urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Applicant shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as the Section or its designee shall determine to be appropriate to clarify or confirm the positive or suspected positive test results.
- B. For a period of at least one (1) year from the date of this Order Applicant shall comply with the following Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) support group and relapse prevention plan requirements:
- i. Applicant shall attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, tribal support group (healing circle), or other Section-approved equivalent program for recovering professionals, no less than once per week. Applicant shall provide proof of attendance on a quarterly basis to the Department Monitor.

- ii. Within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order, Applicant shall complete and submit a relapse prevention plan which shall address, but is not limited to, the following items:
  - a. Describe your attitude about sobriety and what will help you sustain your motivation/commitment to sobriety;
  - b. Identify your goals;
  - c. What motivates you;
  - d. What consequences are likely if you relapse;
  - e. Identify your triggers and/or warning signs, and your specific plan to avoid drinking or using;
  - f. Who will you contact for support and assistance;
  - g. Emergency planning; what you will do if you encounter a crisis or a stressful situation that triggers a strong urge to use or drink;
  - h. Changing your routine is important in staying sober; how will you begin and end each day in a way that supports sobriety and recovery;
  - i. Do you foresee any obstacles/barrier to implementing this plan? What will you do about these roadblocks?
  - j. How will you remain accountable?
- iii. Applicant shall submit self-reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. The reports shall include a summary of Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order in the previous quarter and provide an update on Applicant's relapse prevention plan follow through.

C. For a period of at least one (1) year from the date of this Order, Applicant shall comply with the following practice limitations:

- i. Applicant shall report to the Section any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of change.
- ii. Applicant shall commit no new violations of law and shall report all law enforcement contacts leading to arrest, charge or conviction, including DWI/OWI and municipal/ordinance violations, to the Department Monitor within forty-eight (48) hours of any such event, including any convictions resulting from pending charges.

4. Applicant may petition the Section on an annual basis for modification of the terms of this Order, however no such petition for modification shall occur earlier than one (1) year from the date of this Order. Denial of a petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a



credential within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a), and Applicant shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on the denial.

5. After one (1) year of successful compliance, including at least six hundred (600) hours of approved social work practice during one (1) year, the Applicant may petition the Section for return of full licensure. The Section may grant or deny any petition, in its discretion, or may modify this Order as it sees fit.

6. Any requests, petitions, reports and other information required by this Order shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered 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) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264  
[DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov)

You may also submit this information online via DSPS Monitoring Case management System, here: <https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>

7. In the event Applicant violates any term of this Order, Applicant's credential, or Applicant's right to renew her credential, may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing. The Section or its designee may terminate the suspension if provided with sufficient information that Applicant is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the suspension to be terminated. Whether to terminate the suspension shall be wholly in the discretion of the Section or its designee. 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.

8. Applicant shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the monitoring, screening, supervision, and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this Order. Being dropped from a program for non-payment is a violation of this Order.

9. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

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

By: *Dr. Cynthia C. Adell ASE*  
A Member of the Section

08/14/2023  
Date

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

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IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR :  
RENEWAL OF AN :  
ADVANCED PRACTICE SOCIAL WORKER :  
CREDENTIAL : STIPULATION  
:

VANESSA M. OLD COYOTE,  
APPLICANT.

ORDER 0008690

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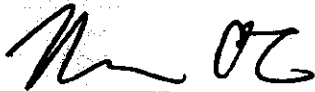
It is stipulated between Applicant and the Social Worker Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Section) as follows:

1. Applicant filed an application to renew an Advanced Practice Social Worker credential.
2. Information received by the Section reflects a basis for denial of licensure.
3. Based upon the information of record, the Section agrees to issue, and Applicant agrees to accept, an Order granting a Advanced Practice Social Worker credential, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Order adopting the Stipulation.
4. Applicant understands that by signing this Stipulation, Applicant voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:
  - the right to request a hearing related to the denial of the application;
  - the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Applicant;
  - the right to call witnesses on Applicant's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
  - the right to testify on Applicant'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 Applicant under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.
5. Applicant is aware of Applicant's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.

6. Applicant agrees to the adoption of the attached Order Granting Limited License by the Section. The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Order Granting Limited License without further notice, appearance, or consent of the parties.

7. Applicant waives all rights to any appeal of the Section's Order, as adopted in the form as attached.

8. Applicant is informed that the Order Granting Limited License is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard procedure.



Vanessa M. Old Coyote  
Milwaukee, WI 53220  
License #131639-121

8/10/2023

Date



A Member of the Social Worker Section  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

08/14/2023

Date