

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR A | : | |
| PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR TRAINING | : | |
| LICENSE | : | ORDER GRANTING |
| | : | LIMITED LICENSE |
| | : | |
| CARRIE WALTERS, | : | |
| APPLICANT. | : | ORDER 0008788 |

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

Carrie Walters
Venice, CA 90291

Professional Counselor Section of the Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy,
Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board
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 application. The Professional Counselor 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. Carrie Walters (Applicant) resides in Venice, California.
2. Applicant has applied for a Professional Counselor Training License (IA-108087).
3. Applicant previously held the following credentials issued by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services:

Substance Abuse Counselor – In Training credential #18918-130, granted on July 5, 2019, and surrendered on November 11, 2022 (SAC-IT).

Substance Abuse Counselor credential #16579-131, granted on August 29, 2022, and surrendered on November 11, 2022 (SAC).

4. On November 11, 2022, the Department issued Final Decision and Order #0008246 accepting the voluntary surrender of Applicant's SAC and SAC-IT credentials (Surrender FDO).

5. The Surrender FDO establishes Findings of Fact including, *inter alia*:

At all times relevant to this proceeding, [Applicant] was employed as a substance abuse counselor-in-training at a community-based residential treatment facility located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin (Facility).

On August 31, 2022, [Applicant] sent a letter to the Facility admitting to engaging in "inappropriate messages and behavior" with a client while the client was in residential treatment and under her care during March and April 2022.

[Applicant] has fully cooperated with the Department's investigation, expressed remorse regarding her actions, and is undergoing therapy.

6. The Surrender FDO establishes Conclusions of Law including, *inter alia*:

By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, [Applicant] violated Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 164.01(2)(m) by engaging in inappropriate sexual contact, exposure, gratification, or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient.

By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, [Applicant] violated Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 164.01(2)(n) by failing to avoid dual relationships or relationships that may impair the substance abuse professional's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

7. The Surrender FDO establishes an Order with terms including, *inter alia*:

In the event [Applicant] petitions the Department for reinstatement of her certification to practice as a substance abuse counselor or substance abuse counselor-in-training in the state of Wisconsin, or applies for another credential in the state of Wisconsin under Wis. Stats. chs. 440 through 480, [Applicant] shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$420.00 before any petition or application for a credential will be considered by the applicable board or Department.

8. After the Surrender FDO, Applicant moved to California and obtained a California Substance Use Disorder Certified Counselor certification (SUDCC) which expired on February 28, 2023.

9. Applicant wishes to return to Wisconsin and seeks a Professional Counselor Training License. She has paid the costs required by the Surrender FDO and provided proof of 12 hours of continuing education completed on Law and Professional Ethics, along with other evidence of rehabilitation.

10. 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. § 457.26(2) 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. § 457.26(2)(f), the Section may deny or limit a license if Applicant engaged in unprofessional or unethical conduct in violation of the code of ethics established in the rules promulgated under Wis. Stat. § 457.03(2).
3. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(h), the Section may deny or limit a license if Applicant violated this chapter, or any rule promulgated under this chapter.
4. Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(2), a rule promulgated under Wis. Stat. ch. 457, it is unprofessional conduct to violate a law of any jurisdiction, the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice under the credential. As established by the Surrender FDO, Applicant violated Wis. Admin. Code §§ SPS 164.01(2)(m) and (n), which are laws that substantially relate to the practice of a professional counselor in training.
5. Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(13), a rule promulgated under Wis. Stat. ch. 457, it is unprofessional conduct to fail to avoid dual relationships that may impair the credentialed person's objectivity or create a conflict of interest. As established by the Surrender FDO, Applicant engaged in a prohibited dual relationship which impaired her objectivity and created a conflict of interest.
6. As a result of the above conduct, Applicant is subject to limitations on her license pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 457.26(2)(f) and (h).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Limitations upon Applicant's Professional Counselor Training License are necessary for the reasons set forth above.
3. Applicant's ability to practice under a Professional Counselor Training License in the state of Wisconsin is LIMITED as follows:
 - A. For a period of at least two years from the date of this Order, Applicant shall comply with the following practice limitations:
 - i. Applicant shall provide her professional counseling employer with a copy of this Order before engaging in any professional counseling employment. Applicant shall provide the Department Monitor with written acknowledgment from each professional counseling employer that a copy of this Order has been received.

Such acknowledgment shall be provided to the Department Monitor within 14 days of beginning new employment and/or within 14 days of the date of this Order for employment current as of the date of this Order.

- ii. Applicant shall arrange for written reports from her professional counseling employer(s) to be provided to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, beginning 90 days from the date of this Order. These reports shall describe the circumstances of Applicant's employment, assess her work performance in general and with specific emphasis on ethical practice and professional boundaries, and verify that she is in compliance with the laws governing the practice of professional counseling and the terms of this Order.
- iii. Applicant shall report to the Section any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five days of the date of change.

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 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 two consecutive years of successful compliance, including at least 600 hours of approved professional counseling practice each year, the Applicant may petition the Section for 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

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

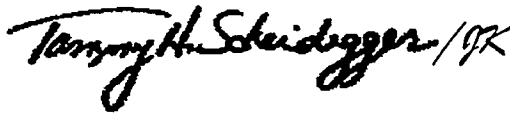
7. In the event Applicant violates any term of this Order, Applicant's license, or Applicant's right to renew her license, may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing. The Section or its designee may terminate the suspension if provided with 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 associated with complying with the terms of this Order.

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

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

/JK

By:

A Member of the Section

08/28/2023

Date

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

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR A | : | |
| PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR TRAINING | : | |
| LICENSE | : | |
| | : | STIPULATION |
| | : | |
| CARRIE WALTERS, | : | ORDER 0008788 |
| APPLICANT. | : | |

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

1. Applicant filed an application for a Professional Counselor Training License (IA-108087).
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 Professional Counselor Training License, 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.

Connie Walters

Connie Walters
Venice CA 90291
Application IA-108087

8-2-23

Date

Tammy H. Scheidtger / TX

A Member of the Professional Counselor Section
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

08/28/2023

Date