

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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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	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
HEATHER A. JOHNSON, C.S.W.	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER 0008826

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 22 SOC 028

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

Heather A. Johnson, C.S.W.
Eagle River, WI 54521

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. Heather A. Johnson, C.S.W. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1971) is credentialed in the state of Wisconsin as a Social Worker, having certificate number 12719-120, first issued on February 23, 2018, and current through February 28, 2025. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent worked as a Social Worker for a Wisconsin county facility located in Eagle River, Wisconsin (Facility).

3. The Facility was informed that Respondent was engaged in an inappropriate relationship with the father of a child in one of her assigned Child Protective Service cases (Child A). There was a photo posted on the father's Facebook page which showed the father, Child A and the Respondent at a waterpark, depicting Respondent in a swimsuit and cover up changing the diaper of Child A in question with the father shirtless in the foreground.

4. In February 2021, Respondent sent a letter to a Wisconsin county social services agency indicating that the father had physical placement of his two children and that he did not reside in Winchester, Wisconsin with the children's mother, but resided in Minnesota. However, the father was in fact residing in Winchester, Wisconsin with the children and the children's mother. The letter was an attempt to assist the father in receiving childcare assistance for which he would not qualify if he resided in Winchester, Wisconsin with the children's mother.

5. On October 7, 2021, Respondent admitted to a Facility supervisor that she crossed boundaries with the family of Child A but denied any sexual or romantic relationship with the father.

6. On October 14, 2021, the father was placed in jail for a probation violation. Respondent continued to have contact with the father while he was in custody. The father requested that Respondent take guardianship of his children who were in foster care. The Wisconsin county social services agency denied that request. The father indicated that when his probation expired, he was going to be living at Respondent's residence.

7. Respondent indicated that she has since left the field of social work.

8. 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 committed unprofessional conduct by reporting distorted, false, or misleading information or making false statements in practice within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(7).

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent committed unprofessional conduct by failing to avoid dual relationships or relationships that may impair the credentialed person's objectivity or create a conflict of interest within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 20.02(13).

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 SURRENDER by Respondent of her certificate to practice social work in the state of Wisconsin (certificate no. 12719-120), as well as her right to renew such certificate, is accepted.

3. In the event Respondent petitions the Section for reinstatement of her certificate to practice as a 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 \$1,074.00, before any petition or application for a credential will be considered by the applicable board or Department.

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

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:

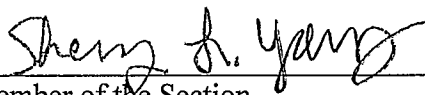
Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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

6. 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

Date

10/17/23

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

HEATHER A. JOHNSON, C.S.W.
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0008826

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 22 SOC 028

Heather A. Johnson, 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.

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.

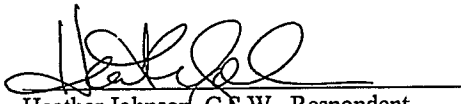
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Section, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted 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, 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.

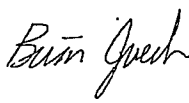
7. Respondent is informed that should the Section adopt this Stipulation, the Section's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. Respondent is further informed that should the Section adopt this Stipulation, the Section's Final Decision and Order will be reported as required by the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) Guidebook and as otherwise required by any licensure compact or any other state or federal law.

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


Heather Johnson, C.S.W., Respondent
Eagle River, WI 54521
License No. 12719-120 (Social Worker)

6/23/2023
Date


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

July 25, 2023
Date