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# SCOTT ALLEN

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 97<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## Testimony for AB 812

Chairman Petryk and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. This is a good bill worthy of your consideration and prompt action.

Could you imagine a family member of yours being served by a social worker who is a former bank robber and rapist?

What if I told you that that person was licensed by the State of Wisconsin? And that the State of Wisconsin had no idea of his criminal past when it issued the license?

I have been licensed by the State of Wisconsin since 1993 in the field of real estate. I've spent many hours sitting with people at their kitchen tables discussing personal matters. People have shared their personal finances with me. They have shared their social security numbers with me. They've written personal checks for earnest money deposits and entrusted me with the delivery and deposit of those funds. People have given me the keys to their houses.

Trust is essential for certain professional duties to be performed. A state license conveys a degree of trust.

When I learned last summer that a state licensed social worker had a very checkered past, one that included bank robbery and rape, I wondered, "how could the state issue a license for such a sensitive profession to someone like that?" Upon inquiry I learned that in most cases the penalty for intentional non-disclosure or lying on a license application was simply the loss of the license.

Is it possible that someone might perceive the benefits of a state license to be great enough to take the risk and lie? It might be a while before they get caught. All they would lose is the license, no other penalty. Hmm...

Last summer when the news broke about the rapist, bank robber with the social worker license, the Governor instructed the Department of Safety and Professional Services to begin auditing a 5% random sample of social worker licenses and doing background checks on those individuals.



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Perhaps the increased threat of being caught will deter people from lying. This was a good step in the right direction, yet it was only for social worker licenses.

Conducting background checks on every license applicant is simply cost prohibitive. There are approximately 371,000 licenses issued by DSPS. Preliminary estimates from DSPS for complete background checks for all licenses are close to \$60 million per biennium.

The idea behind the bill is that 1) there ought to be a significant penalty for intentional non-disclosure or misrepresentation on a license application, and 2) we ought to disclose the penalty on the application to appropriately warn people and deter people from making material misrepresentations.

Specifically, the bill provides that a person who intentionally makes a material misrepresentation or omission on a license application would be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and face a potential penalty of a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed nine months, or both. The bill also requires DSPS to modify license application forms to include a statement regarding the prohibition of lying and the penalty that would result.

In crafting this bill both professional staff and legal counsel at DSPS were consulted.

I offer this bill as a reasonable and prudent step to better safeguard the integrity of our licensing process and to bolster the foundation of trust upon which our professional economy relies.



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A Journal Sentinel Watchdog Report

## Social worker obtained state licenses despite criminal past

By John Diedrich and Cary Spivak of the Journal Sentinel  
June 13, 2015

Francis Deisler came to Wisconsin in the early 1970s with a lengthy criminal résumé but a chance at a fresh start, having helped authorities bust New York mobsters.

But Deisler soon returned to crime.

He raped several women while their husbands were at work. He robbed a Milwaukee bank and burglarized homes. And he kidnapped and raped a 14-year-old girl.

Deisler was convicted and spent a decade behind bars. He got out and became a licensed social worker and therapist in Wisconsin and two other states, specializing in treating addicts and sex offenders. After moving to Indiana, he launched several social service businesses and founded a national social worker training and accreditation organization.

It is unclear whether Wisconsin regulators knew about his criminal past, since the state did not — and still does not — routinely conduct a criminal-background check before issuing a social worker's license.

For almost all types of licenses issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services, regulators rely on an honor system to determine if applicants have a criminal history, said Hannah Zillmer, spokeswoman for the department.

In those cases, the department runs a criminal-background check only for applicants who admit they have a conviction.

The system "works very well to protect the public," Zillmer said.

Allowing a convicted rapist like Deisler to treat sex offenders baffles the husband of one of his sexual assault victims, whom the Journal Sentinel is not identifying to protect his wife's identity as a sexual assault victim.

"I think there is a big difference in changing someone's actions and going into a professional field that is so opposed to what that person did," the husband said. "I will tell you after hearing this, I wondered if Charles Manson would make a good grief counselor?"

Now, more than two decades after Deisler became a licensed social worker, he is being investigated by regulators in Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan.

Wisconsin regulators are trying to determine whether Deisler did not disclose his criminal past when he applied for a social worker's license — an investigation made difficult because state law requires that applications be routinely destroyed after five years, Zillmer said.

Deisler's original license applications filed in Indiana and Michigan are available to regulators in those states because officials don't destroy them.

Indiana reprimanded Deisler earlier this year for failing to notify the state he had changed his name. But officials took no other action on his convictions.

Michigan issued a complaint against Deisler for lying about his convictions on his application and providing a false date of birth and Social Security number. That investigation is ongoing. Wisconsin's probe into Deisler also is open.

In the years since Deisler was licensed, regulators in Michigan and Indiana began running criminal background checks for people seeking licenses to work in a variety of fields, including social work and health-related fields.

Deisler, whose legal name is now Frank Palani, did not return repeated calls and email messages seeking comment for this story.

Deisler's attorney, David R. Keesling of Tulsa, Okla., downplayed the investigations and his client's criminal career as it relates to licensing matters. While Keesling said he did not know whether his client disclosed his criminal record on license applications, he argued that states may have licensed him even with knowledge of his criminal past.

"There are many former criminals — ex-offenders — who have gone into these areas of counseling," Keesling said. He said Deisler is 76 years old and no longer works for the National Association of Forensic Counselors, which he founded, and does not actively practice as a social worker.

Deisler's wife, Karla Taylor, runs the association, Keesling said. He accused the Church of Scientology, which has close ties to the Narconon program — a drug addiction treatment program that is being sued by the forensic counselors group for trademark infringement — for contacting the media and regulators about Deisler's criminal history.

"If you don't like the message ... you try smearing the messenger," he said.

An attorney for Narconon declined to comment and the Church of Scientology did not respond to requests for comment.

## **Trouble at young age**

Deisler was in trouble early. At age 13 in Brooklyn, he raped a 7-year-old girl at knife point, according to records in his Wisconsin court file. He was shot that same year.

As a teenager in the 1950s, he was convicted of burglary, forgery and theft. He was addicted to heroin and by 17, records show, he already had been in and out of juvenile lockup.

Deisler later served time in Sing Sing and Attica prisons in New York. In the late 1960s, he was associating with mob members. He was arrested for mail theft and robbery and agreed to turn state's evidence and help federal authorities on 13 mob members in exchange for a "full release" from all his earlier crimes, the records said.

In the early 1970s, he married his third wife and moved with her four young children to Plymouth, Wis., where her family had land. Federal authorities thought he could "hide" from mob revenge in Wisconsin, according to court records.

Deisler, then 33, applied to the State of Wisconsin to become an insurance agent, lying on his application, according to the records in Deisler's court file. The state didn't check that record either and granted him the license.

Deisler's insurance work was going well until he got entangled in a fight with the Town of Fredonia about putting a wastewater tank in his backyard. The permit was denied and Deisler took out an ad in a local newspaper, asking others in the community if they were "tired of unjust decisions" and promised to represent them, according to a Milwaukee Journal article from February 1972.

His ad sparked an inquiry by the State Bar Association into whether he had a law degree. Deisler claimed he had a degree to the Journal reporter but couldn't provide any proof. He said he planned to take the bar exam in Wisconsin. An investigation into his insurance license followed and officials learned he lied to get it, according to court records.

Later that year, Deisler went on a crime spree, part of it with Wayne Leo Casper, whom he had met in the insurance business. Deisler looked for homes in the newspaper that were being sold by the owner. The pair would go to the home and express interest in buying the house. They would come back later, armed with a gun, and rape the woman while her husband was at work, records show.

Deisler, who sometimes acted alone, was suspected in a half dozen such assaults, court records show. He and Casper also robbed the Continental Savings and Loan on N. 76th St. in Milwaukee in October 1972. That same month Deisler kidnapped a girl who was walking on W. Wisconsin Ave. in Milwaukee, drove her to Germantown and raped her, records show.

Police caught Deisler in December 1972, after he and Casper had kidnapped two girls at gunpoint. The girls managed to call police at a gas station in Kewaskum. When officers arrived, guns drawn, Deisler and Casper were reaching for a loaded gun under the car seat, according to a newspaper article.

Deisler was convicted of three sexual assaults, but he was declared mentally ill with a "sexual deviation." He was committed to a state secure hospital for treatment of "mental aberrations."

He served a couple of years for the rapes until doctors proclaimed him cured, but he remained in prison because of the robbery.

Deisler escaped from the secure hospital in 1974. He was caught and returned within two weeks.

From early on, prison officials viewed Deisler as a bright, but deceptive, inmate.

"He is fairly well educated," one official wrote in his file, "and always attempts to be someone that he is not."

## Turning to social work

While behind bars, Deisler pursued a college degree in social work, paying for his classes with thousands of dollars from federal disability payments, which he continued to receive in federal prison, according to records. Those records do not say why Deisler was getting disability payments.

In a 1974 letter to Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Max Raskin, who had sentenced him, Deisler wrote: "I have discovered a way of using the liability of being a felon and ex-convict as an asset, and that is by using my long past anti-social behavior and its consequences to help younger people through social work."

The reports from prison officials grew more positive. They called Deisler an "exemplary" inmate. The Parole Board was skeptical. They would not release him, citing his violent crimes.

In a petition to have his sentence cut, Deisler wrote that his only assaultive crime was the armed robbery. He didn't mention the rapes.

"I have come a long way with my life. I have rewritten my life script," he wrote.

By 1980, Deisler had received a master's degree and was allowed to leave prison daily for clinical training in Milwaukee, records show. He became the first incarcerated person in Wisconsin to achieve state certification as an alcohol and drug counselor, his records said. Deisler divorced his third wife and married his fourth, a woman who did prison ministry work.

Deisler was held in prison until his mandatory release date in 1981.

By the late 1980s, he was living in Fort Wayne, Ind., and teamed up with a man he met in prison to open a counseling business, which at one point was treating three-quarters of all drunken drivers coming through the court system there, according to a news article about Deisler and his business.

Deisler used a confrontational style of counseling alcoholics and addicts and said his critics — who raised his criminal background as a problem — were just jealous.

"If people believe you can be rehabilitated and get well, then what I'm doing shouldn't be a problem," he told an Indiana reporter in 1988.

## Licenses received

In the early 1990s, Deisler received social worker licenses in Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. On the form for the Michigan license, he answered "no" to the question, "Have you ever been convicted of a crime?" He listed on the application that he did intern work at Camp Winnebago, but he didn't say that was a prison camp.

Deisler tried to keep his crimes from Wisconsin and New York secret. He asked the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette not to publish details about his rapes and robberies, saying he would leave Fort Wayne, according to the article, which included the information anyway.

But he didn't leave town. In 1996, he expanded beyond his treatment clinic to open a private juvenile detention facility. A county children's court judge gave his five-page FBI criminal history to local

news outlets, saying he wanted to raise the question of whether someone with a criminal background should be running the facility.

Deisler told a reporter: "You've got a judge here who, on one hand, tells kids to clean up their act, they can have a life. Now, he's saying even though I've cleaned up my act, I can't have a second chance. There's something wrong there."

Deisler founded the National Association of Forensic Counselors Inc., according to records in Nevada, where the company is incorporated. The organization, whose motto is "Honesty-Competency-Integrity," provides certification and continuing education and holds training sessions around the country through a related nonprofit company, Forensic Training Institute.

This year, the institute is doing training for social workers in nine states, including its national event in Indiana in September. The nonprofit brought in \$112,000 in revenue in 2013 and listed Deisler as its president on the tax return it filed last year.

Michael Stone, a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University, had been scheduled to be keynote speaker at the group's event but canceled when told of Deisler's history.

Stone said Deisler's convictions should have disqualified him from doing social work and it was "farcical" that he should work in the field.

"His crimes would not qualify him for anything but prison," he said.

### **3 states, 3 investigations**

Earlier this year, Indiana completed its investigation into Deisler and reprimanded him for failing to tell state officials he legally changed his name. In a statement, a spokeswoman with the Indiana Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board said Deisler's crimes from the 1970s were not "actionable."

"The disciplinary process exists to consider actual verified violations of licensing rules, including evidence of criminal conduct or other conduct that was committed since the licensee's most recent renewal, or not reported where required in previous renewals or casts doubt on the individual's competence to practice," wrote Molly Johnson, adding that Deisler's initial license application from 1992 asked if he had been convicted of a crime in the past five years. He marked "no," which was correct, she said.

In Michigan, officials issued a complaint last month accusing Deisler of lying three different ways on his 1993 application. That form asks if the applicant has ever been convicted of a crime. Deisler also put down a false Social Security number and date of birth, the complaint says. Deisler has responded to the complaint, but the State of Michigan refused to release it because the investigation remains open.

In Wisconsin, even if Deisler disclosed his record on his application in 1993, it is unknown whether it would have prevented him from getting a license.

Zillmer, the spokeswoman for the state regulatory agency, declined to say whether a person with a similar rap sheet applying today would qualify for a state license. "I don't answer hypothetical questions," she said.

When the agency learns of an applicant's criminal past, regulators must consider the crime's relation to the profession the person seeks to enter, the age of the crime and efforts at rehabilitation, Zillmer said. The agency regulates more than 230 professions, ranging from barbers to doctors, and issued nearly 40,000 licenses last year.

State law does not prohibit the agency from conducting criminal background checks on applicants for other licenses. Yet, the state has opted not to do such criminal background checks, unless the applicant waves the red flag by acknowledging they have a rap sheet.

Repeated requests to interview Dave Ross, the department's secretary and a member of Gov. Scott Walker's cabinet, were denied.

In an email, Zillmer said that department's licensing procedure "lets individuals enter a career path, and also ensures state oversight for competent and safe practice of professions."

If applicants lie about their criminal past, the department may still catch them if a member of the public blows the whistle, Zillmer said.

In Deisler's case, that took 20 years.

## **How to file a complaint**

To file a complaint with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, go to <http://dsps.wi.gov/Complaints-and-Inspections/Complaints/> or call (608) 266-2112 or (877) 617-1565.

### **Find this article at:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/social-worker-obtained-state-licenses-despite-criminal-past-b99512228z1-307274191.html>

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JOURNAL SENTINEL WATCHDOG UPDATE

## State to make background checks on 5% of social workers under program

By John Diedrich And Cary Spivak  
Sept. 29, 2015

Wisconsin regulators will soon conduct limited criminal background checks on a narrow slice of the state's social workers — a program being created after it was disclosed that it once licensed a serial rapist and bank robber.

The new checks will be done on about 5% — or about 500 — of the approximately 10,000 social workers licensed in Wisconsin. The checks, which are being done through the state Department of Justice, will provide regulators with an in-state "rap sheet" showing arrests, charges and convictions. However, the check will not provide information about federal crimes or crimes committed in other states.

Hannah Zillmer, a spokeswoman for the Department of Safety and Professional Services, said the program is a test. The current process works on an honor system, simply asking license applicants to disclose their criminal records but not verifying their answers unless they admit a criminal history.

The test program follows an investigation by the Journal Sentinel that examined the history of Francis Deisler, a serial rapist and bank robber who was licensed in 1993 by Wisconsin and as of earlier this year was a licensed clinical social worker before he let his license lapse. Deisler has recently come under investigation in Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana for lying on his application.

The Journal Sentinel also disclosed that the state does not check criminal histories of prospective social workers.

The state uses the honor system for the more than 230 occupations regulated by the Department of Safety and Professional Services. The department last year issued nearly 40,000 licenses to people working in a wide array of professions ranging from barbers to physicians.

In the test program, about 500 social workers who are renewing their licenses will receive letters telling them that the state will run a criminal-background check on them.

It would be cost prohibitive to test all 10,000 state-licensed social workers, Dave Ross, department secretary, said in a letter this month to Kirsten Reader, administrator of the Division of Professional Credential Processing.

Background checks on all social workers would cost nearly \$150,000, plus an additional \$3 million in staff time over the two-year budget period, Ross wrote. The test program will cost \$8 per check or a total of \$4,000.

Zillmer said officials will review the results of the program to determine whether "to implement broader policy changes."

"Auditing a random sample of licenses will give the agency and the Social Work Section a clearer picture as to whether additional measures should be incorporated in the future," Ross wrote. Ross, a member of Gov. Scott Walker's cabinet, declined to be interviewed, referring questions to Zillmer.

She said background checks should pick up any criminal violations that occurred in Wisconsin that a social worker failed to report when they received or renewed their license in past years.

Some social workers already undergo background checks because they fall under Wisconsin's caregiver law requiring that people who make home health visits or provide services to the mentally ill and other vulnerable people have their backgrounds checked for criminal records by their employers.

Unlike Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana — both of which also licensed Deisler — now run criminal background checks on everyone applying to be a social worker and many other licensed professions.

Ross wrote that the department surveyed surrounding states and found Illinois and Iowa have a program similar to Wisconsin's, while Michigan and Minnesota run fingerprint and criminal backgrounds. Indiana was not cited in Ross' letter.

After the disclosure about Deisler, Walker said he was open to stricter regulations, though he did not call for a change in the law. Walker ordered Ross to review existing law to see if statutory changes needed to be made.

It's unknown whether Deisler, 76, who now lives in Indiana, listed his convictions on his original Wisconsin license application in 1993. That's because Wisconsin does not keep licenses after five years and a spokeswoman said she doesn't know whether the state asked applicants about criminal convictions when Deisler applied.

Indiana and Michigan do keep licenses. Based on those records, Indiana reprimanded Deisler this year for failing to report that he had changed his name. Michigan has filed a complaint against Deisler charging that he lied three times on his application — saying he had no conviction and giving a false date of birth and Social Security number.

Zillmer said a Wisconsin investigation of Deisler is ongoing.

Deisler was convicted of raping two women and a girl and of robbing a bank in the early 1970s. While in prison, he received a master's degree in counseling but did not receive a degree in social work, according to records in his criminal court file. Deisler was licensed as a social worker in Wisconsin in 1993.

After he was released from prison, Deisler moved to Indiana. He later founded the National Association of Forensic Counselors and the Forensic Training Institute, a training group.

The Michigan Board of Psychology Disciplinary Subcommittee voted this month to permanently suspend Deisler's license, said Michael Loepp, spokesman with that state's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

Indiana reprimanded Deisler earlier this year for failing to notify the state he had changed his name. But officials took no other action on his convictions.

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/state-to-make-background-checks-on-5-of-social-workers-under-program-b99585716z1-329962161.html>

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Watchdog Update

## Bill makes lying on professional license application a crime

By [John Diedrich](#) and [Cary Spivak](#) of the Journal Sentinel  
Jan. 17, 2016

Lying on an application to become a licensed professional in Wisconsin would be a crime under a pending bipartisan bill, following a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel investigation showing the state [licensed a serial rapist and bank robber](#) to be a social worker.

The story disclosed that [Francis Deisler](#), a rapist and robber, received a Wisconsin license to be a social worker. Deisler's license here has since lapsed, but the state is investigating his case.

The bill's author, [Rep. Scott Allen](#) (R-Waukesha), said the Deisler investigation highlighted an abuse in the system and the need to hold people who lie on forms accountable.

"I am not satisfied we are doing the best we could to protect taxpayers who encounter these people, often in intimate settings," Allen said. "It has been a trust factor, and obviously that trust has been abused."

Allen, a freshman legislator, said it is against the law to lie on a form now, but no punishment is spelled out so the most the state could do to offenders is take away their license.

"It's against the law, but there are no teeth to it. This bill puts some teeth in it," he said.

Allen's bill would make it a class A misdemeanor to provide false information on any of the applications received by the Department of Safety and Professional Services. The department licenses more than 230 professions, ranging from barbers to doctors, and issues nearly 40,000 licenses a year.

The law carries a maximum penalty of nine months in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Allen is circulating the bill, which so far has seven co-sponsors: Rep. Jesse Kremer (R-Kewaskum), Rep. Rob Brooks (R-Saukville), Rep. Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc), Rep. Lisa Subeck (D-Madison), Rep. Al Ott (R-Forest Junction), Rep. Cody Horlacher (R-Mukwonago) and Sen. Steve Nass (R-Whitewater). It is expected to be introduced this week.

Allen said he realizes it could be tough to get the bill through both houses in the short spring sessions. He said he would bring it back if he is re-elected.

## Background checks

The bill comes as the state will begin new limited criminal background checks of a narrow portion of the state's social workers. The checks were announced in September, again on the heels of the Deisler case.

The checks will be done on 5% — or about 500 — of the roughly 10,000 social workers licensed in Wisconsin. The checks, done by the state Department of Justice, will generate an in-state "rap sheet" of arrests, charges and convictions, but will not show federal crimes or offenses from other states.

The current practice is basically an honor system where license applications simply ask applicants to disclose their criminal records. Regulators do not verify the answers unless the applicant admits to having a criminal history.

The background check program is a test. It will be launched next year, when all state social workers' licenses are renewed, said Hannah Zillmer, a spokeswoman for the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Some social workers already undergo background checks because they fall under Wisconsin's caregiver law requiring that people who make home health visits or provide services to the mentally ill and other vulnerable people have their backgrounds checked for criminal records by their employers.

Unlike Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana — both of which also licensed Deisler — now run criminal background checks on everyone applying to be a social worker and many other licensed professions.

Regulators here checked nearby states and found Illinois and Iowa have a program similar to Wisconsin's, while Michigan and Minnesota run fingerprint and criminal backgrounds. Indiana was not cited.

## Cost constraints

Wisconsin said it would be too cost prohibitive to do background checks on all social worker applicants.

Background checks on all social workers would cost nearly \$150,000, plus an additional \$3 million in staff time over the two-year budget period. The test program will cost \$8 per check, or a total of \$4,000.

Allen agrees doing background checks on a larger percentage of applicants would be too costly. He thinks a law making it clear that it's a crime to lie on the form and spelling out the penalties will prevent people from lying. He conceded without a check, someone could still lie and try to get away with it.

"At what cost do we hunt this down?" he said. "I think this is the most cost-effective approach."

It's unknown whether Deisler, 76, who now lives in Indiana, listed his convictions on his original Wisconsin license application in 1993. Wisconsin regulators do not keep license applications after five years.

Indiana and Michigan, however, do keep records.

A Michigan board last year permanently suspended Deisler's license. Earlier, Indiana reprimanded Deisler for failing to notify the state he had changed his name, but took no other action on his convictions.

This month, Wisconsin's investigation into Deisler's case is expected to be discussed at a meeting of the state Social Worker Section, a panel that oversees social workers in Wisconsin.

Deisler was convicted of raping two women and a girl and of robbing a bank in the early 1970s. While in prison, he received a master's degree in counseling but did not receive a degree in social work, according to court records.

After he was released from prison, Deisler moved to Indiana. He later founded the National Association of Forensic Counselors and the Forensic Training Institute, a training group.

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/bill-makes-lying-on-professional-license-application-a-crime-b99652019z1-365600611.html>

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Journal Sentinel Watchdog Update

## Convicted rapist, robber agrees not to practice social work in Wisconsin

By Cary Spivak and John Diedrich of the Journal Sentinel  
Jan. 28, 2016

State regulators and Francis Deisler have agreed that the rapist/bank robber turned licensed social worker would forever give up his Wisconsin professional license — an agreement that comes seven months after he said he would surrender his license.

The state determined that in 1993 Deisler lied on his license application when he said he had never been convicted of a crime, according to the final order issued by the state regulatory board that oversees social workers and was released late Wednesday.

The stipulation, between Deisler and the state Department of Safety and Professional Services board, also requires that Deisler immediately return all records of his Wisconsin social worker's license to state regulators.

The state orders list Deisler's age as 71, but online Wisconsin court records say he is 77 years old.

It took seven months to reach the agreement because Deisler, who lives in Indiana, balked at signing a stipulation after he initially told a state investigator in June that he would surrender his license, according to an internal memo by Tiffany Brussow, the investigator.

After Brussow told Deisler he was being investigated for failing to disclose his criminal history, he responded, "It doesn't matter, I'm not going to renew," Brussow wrote in the memo.

Deisler also told Brussow that "he knows where this complaint is coming from" adding that "the company he used to work for is spreading lies about him," Brussow wrote.

Hannah Zillmer, a spokeswoman for the Department of Safety and Professional Services, said Deisler signed the stipulation this month after the state threatened to prosecute him through regulatory channels if he did not. Deisler remains a licensed social worker and marriage and family therapist in Indiana. He permanently surrendered his Michigan license last year.

"He didn't want to say that he did anything wrong," Zillmer said.

Attorney David R. Keesling of Tulsa, Okla., who has represented Deisler in the past, did not immediately respond to a reporter's call for comment Thursday.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported last June that despite Deisler spending a decade behind bars for a variety of convictions, including raping and kidnapping a 14-year old girl, regulators in Wisconsin and two other states licensed him to work as a social worker.

In 1973 Deisler was sentenced to 15 years in prison for armed robbery. He was sentenced to an additional 15 years the following year for rape and burglary — though the sentences handed down in Milwaukee and Washington counties ran concurrently. He was also committed to Central State Hospital in Waupun for treatment following a 1973 conviction for rape.

After doing his time, Deisler entered the social work field and was licensed in Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. He specialized in treating addicts and sex offenders, launched several social service businesses, and founded a national social worker training and accreditation organization.

Disclosures about Deisler's past and the ease of his obtaining and keeping a Wisconsin social workers license sparked a bipartisan legislative effort to enact a law that would make lying on a license application a criminal offense, punishable by nine months in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The Assembly committee on Workforce Development on Thursday scheduled a public hearing on Assembly Bill 812 on Feb. 3.

Wisconsin regulators depend on an honor system when processing applications for social workers and most other licenses it issues. That is, for the most part, the department depends on applicants to disclose any criminal history they may have.

Next year, however, state regulators will run background checks on about 5% — or about 500 — of the approximately 10,000 social workers licensed in Wisconsin. The checks will provide regulators charges and convictions of crimes in Wisconsin. However, the check will not provide information about federal crimes or crimes committed in other states.

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/convicted-rapist-robber-agrees-not-to-practice-social-work-in-wisconsin-b99659951z1-366891411.html>

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