

Notice of Decision

Registrant	Anna Marie Low
Registration number	7006506
Part of Register	Part 2 – Domiciliary Care Worker
Sanction	Removal by Agreement
Date of Effect	3 October 2022

This is a notice of decision of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council ('the Council')

Decision

The Council has decided:

1. that there is evidence that your Fitness to Practise is impaired by reason of your criminal convictions, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019 ('the Rules').
2. to remove you from the Register, following your application to be Removed by Agreement, as defined in Rule 14 of the Rules.

You (the Registrant) have agreed to the following Statement of Facts:

1. On 22 March 2022, the Registrant pleaded guilty to the criminal charge, as set out below. She was subsequently convicted and sentenced at Newry Magistrates Court on 24 May 2022:-
 - Charge 1: 'Defendant on dates unknown between the 30th day of September 2021 and the 1st day of December 2021 stole cash to the value of £200.00 or thereabouts belonging to [Service User A], contrary to Section 1 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969.'
 - The Registrant was sentenced to 5 months imprisonment, wholly suspended for 18 months. She was also ordered to pay £200 compensation to the Service User.
2. The offence occurred while the Registrant was working in her trusted capacity as a domiciliary care worker, and she took advantage of her position to facilitate the theft which occurred against a service user in their own home.
3. By reason of the conviction set out above, the Registrant's fitness to practise is deemed to be impaired.

4. The public has the right to have confidence in social care services. The most vulnerable people in society need to be protected from those who commit criminal offences, in particular those who take advantage of their position of trust. The Registrant has been convicted of stealing from a service user, and thereby causing direct harm to those she was employed to care for and protect. Given the dishonest nature of her actions, she is no longer deemed suitable to remain on the Northern Ireland Social Care Register. Confidence in the social care profession would be undermined by allowing the Registrant to remain on the Register.
5. The Registrant has breached the following provisions of the NI Social Care Council's Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers:

Standard of Conduct 2: As a social care worker, you must strive to establish and maintain the trust and confidence of service users and carers. This includes:

2.1 Being honest and trustworthy.

Standard of Conduct 5: As a social care worker, you must uphold public trust and confidence in social care services. In particular you must not:

5.1 Abuse, neglect or harm service users, carers or colleagues;

5.2 Exploit service users, carers or colleagues in any way;

5.3 Abuse the trust of service users and carers or the access you have to personal information about them or to their property, home or workplace;

5.8 Behave in a way, in work or outside work, which would call into question your suitability to work in social care services.

Application for Removal by Agreement

Having regard to the document '*Consensual Disposal Indicative Sanctions*', the Council was minded to grant you Removal by Agreement. The Council served papers on you, inviting you to apply for Removal by Agreement. Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you made an application to be removed from the Register on 28 September 2022. In making the application, you admitted the allegations, agreed the statement of facts (as set out above), and admitted that the facts amounted to your fitness to practise being impaired.

The effect of this decision is that your entry in the Register has been removed.

You are prohibited by law from working as a social care worker in any of the following regulated positions:

1. A member of care staff at a:
 - a) Children's home
 - b) Residential care home
 - c) Nursing home
 - d) Day care setting

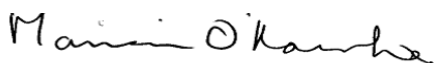
- e) Residential family centre.
- 2. A person who is supplied by a domiciliary care agency to provide personal care to individuals in their own homes for persons who by reason of illness, infirmity or disability are unable to provide it for themselves without assistance.
- 3. A manager of a:
 - a) Residential care home
 - b) Day care setting
 - c) Residential family care centre
 - d) Domiciliary care agency.

It is **compulsory** for the above social care workers to be registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council in order to work. This is pursuant to the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Social Care Workers Prohibition) and Fitness of Workers Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Social Care Workers Prohibition) and Fitness of Workers (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

In accordance with Schedule 3, Paragraph 9 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019, you may not apply to be restored to the Register within five years from the date of removal.

Date of Effect

This notice comes into effect on 3 October 2022



Director of Regulation and Standards

3 October 2022
Date