

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER
Educator License of)	OF REVOCATION
NATHANAEL J. SUTHERLAND)	OF LICENSURE

On April 24, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Nathanael J. Sutherland (Sutherland) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 2307 8985 009 to the address on file with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. The Notice sent Certified Mail was returned to the Commission “Not Deliverable as Addressed, Unable to Forward”. The regular First Class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. A copy of the Notice was also sent Certified Mail to Sutherland’s legal counsel. The signed return receipt was received by the Commission on May 13, 2025. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated April 24, 2025, and signed by Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director, stated:

“IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE.”

Neither Sutherland nor his counsel requested a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Sutherland to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sutherland has been licensed by the Commission since October 23, 2024. Sutherland holds a Restricted Substitute Teaching License, with an endorsement in Substitute (PK-12), valid from October 23, 2024, through June 30, 2025. During the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years, Sutherland worked with 12 to 16-year-old students at Spring Mountain Christian Academy.
2. On October 3, 2024, the Commission received information from Oregon’s Department of Human Services (DHS) which contained allegations that Sutherland may have committed acts of gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, it was reported that in 2020,

Sutherland had sex on multiple occasions with a minor-aged female who Sutherland met online.

3. Investigation found that in the late summer or early fall of 2024, Sutherland spoke with a member of the church Sutherland attended about Sutherland completing an application for a field worker position with Frontiers USA, a faith-based proselytizing program. Sutherland shared with the member that when he (Sutherland) was twenty-three (23) years old, he met a fifteen (15) year-old girl online and had sex with her on multiple occasions. Sutherland then met with the pastor of the church and shared that in 2020, Sutherland met a fifteen (15) year-old female online and had sexual intercourse with her a four to five times. Sutherland admitted to the pastor he (Sutherland) knew the female's age prior to having sex.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

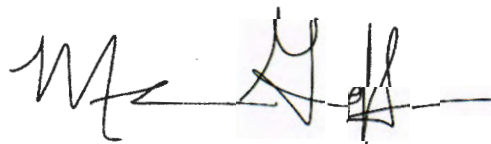
Nathanael J. Sutherland's conduct as described in section three (3) above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any sexual conduct with a student*) as defined by OAR 584-020-0005(8) and ORS 339.370(12)(a); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), and OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby revokes Nathanael J. Sutherland's Oregon educator license.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 28 day of May, 2025.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 

Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director

NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.