

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF DENIAL OF
Educator License of)	APPLICATION AND SUSPENSION OF
PRISCA M. RICKS)	RIGHT TO APPLY FOR LICENSURE

On July 10, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Prisca M. Ricks (Ricks) in which the Commission charged her with Gross Neglect of Duty and Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 2307 8991 00 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 Certified Mail return receipt was signed on July 14, 2025, and returned to the Commission on July 16, 2025. The regular, First-Class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated July 10, 2025, and signed by Rachel Alpert, Executive Director, stated:

“IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 60-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, OR 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.”

On July 28, 2025, Ricks emailed the Commission and accepted the discipline and did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Ricks 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. On January 13, 2025, Ricks submitted an application with the Commission for a Restricted Substitute Teaching License. Ricks’ application was placed on hold pending resolution of this matter.

2. Investigation found that after submission of Ricks’ application, Commission staff conducted a required applicant background check. During this check, Commission staff found potentially derogatory information. Commission staff found Ricks had a criminal record in California. Commission staff checked the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education

and Certification clearinghouse database found that on January 11, 2020, Ricks' California teaching certificate was revoked for misconduct by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). Commission staff obtained documents from California which included law enforcement reports, court records, and records from the CTC to corroborate the derogatory information identified in the background check. On January 30, 2025, the Commission opened an investigation to determine the validity of the discipline and if it was noted in Ricks' application.

3. Investigation found that on Ricks' January 2025 application with the Commission, Ricks answered "NO" to character questions relating to past criminal activity. On Ricks' application, she failed to disclose the nature of her arrest on July 28, 2017, and the charges filed against her on August 1, 2017, which resulted in Rick's conviction in May 2018.
4. Investigation found that on Ricks' January 2025 application with the Commission, Ricks answered "NO" to character questions relating to any adverse professional action and discipline action taken on a professional license. On Ricks' application, she failed to disclose that her teaching credential in California was revoked in 2020, in part due to her criminal behavior in July 2017, which resulted in Ricks' criminal conviction

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Prisca M. Rick'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)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c) (*Falsification of any document or knowing misrepresentation directly related to licensure, employment, or professional duties*).

Ricks' conduct as described in section four (4) above, constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c) (*Falsification of any document or knowing misrepresentation directly related to licensure, employment, or professional duties*).

The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

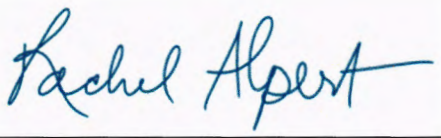
FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby denies the application of Prisca M. Ricks, suspends for ninety (90) days Ricks' right to apply for an Oregon educator license and imposes the following condition:

- Prior to reinstatement, Ricks is required to complete a mental fitness evaluation.
- Ricks is required to provide the evaluator with a copy of this adopted order and documents related to the revocation of her teaching certificate in California. The evaluator will provide the results of the mental fitness evaluation from Ricks to the Commission. The Commission will make a determination for reinstatement after reviewing the evaluation.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 2 day of September, 2025.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 
Rachel Alpert, 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.