

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

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of)
JAMES R. NORTON)
DEFAULT ORDER OF
DENIAL OF REINSTATEMENT
OF TEACHING LICENSE

On August 14, 2009, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to James R. Norton (Norton) in which the Commission denied his application for reinstatement of his teaching license for having failed to furnish evidence satisfactory to the Commission of good moral character, mental and physical health, and trustworthiness that the Commission considers necessary to establish fitness to serve as an educator. The Commission's action is taken under ORS 342.143(2), ORS 342.175(3), and its administrative rules implementing that legal authority under OAR Chapter 584 Division 020, OAR 584-050-0018. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7008 1140 0002 8580 9492 to the address on file with the Commission. The U.S. Postal Service delivered the notice which Norton signed for on August 17, 2009. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated August 14, 2009, and signed by Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director, stated:

"You, James R. Norton, are entitled to a hearing on the proposed action of the Commission. If you want a hearing, you must file a written request for a hearing with the Commission within 60 days of the date of this notice. If you do not request a hearing or if you fail to appear at a hearing, the Commission will adopt an Order of Default which may include the revocation or suspension of your license or other discipline."

Mr. Norton did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Mr. Norton to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about October 12, 2008, James Norton applied to the Commission for reinstatement of his revoked license. Mr. Norton's license was revoked on September 7, 2005, following a contested case hearing in connection with failing to disclose criminal convictions for one count

1 of Assaulting a Public Safety Officer, one count of Assault IV and one count of Criminal
2 Mischief. The convictions stemmed from an altercation in a parking lot involving one person
3 and several police officers. You were found to have engaged in gross neglect of duty in
4 connection with these incidents.

- 5 2. As part of Mr. Norton's reinstatement application, he submitted several letters explaining the
6 circumstances leading to the conviction. In these letters, Mr. Norton denied responsibility for the
7 conviction and stated the counts against him were false. Mr. Norton minimized the
8 circumstances of the incident by shifting responsibility away from him.

9 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

10 Mr. Norton's October 12, 2008, application for reinstatement of his revoked license is
11 denied because the information submitted, along with his reinstatement documents, did not
12 establish that he possess good moral character, trustworthiness, or physical and mental health
13 to hold an educator's license. The conduct Mr. Norton engaged in that resulted in revocation,
14 including the criminal conviction and surrounding circumstances; and the failure to disclose his
15 criminal convictions as raised in the revocation hearing, demonstrates that he does not possess
16 good moral character, trustworthiness, or physical and mental health to hold an educator's
17 license as required by OAR 584-050-0018. The Commission's authority to impose discipline in
18 this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

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1 **FINAL ORDER**

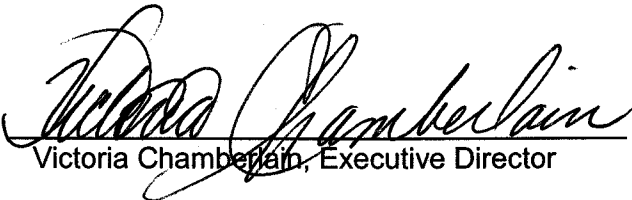
2 The Commission hereby denies James R. Norton's application to reinstate his educator
3 license.

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5 Approved by the Commission on November 6, 2009, effective November 9, 2009.

6 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 12th day of July, 2010.

7 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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9
10 By:


Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

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13 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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