

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

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of) **DEFAULT ORDER**
THOMAS GLENN GRIFFITH) **REVOKING LICENSE**

On June 28, 1996, Walter J. Todd, Attorney for Thomas Glenn Griffith, submitted Griffith's Oregon Teaching License to TSPC pursuant to a plea agreement in Marion County Circuit Court. On August 5, 1996, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission informed Thomas Glenn Griffith that the Commission found sufficient evidence of violation of Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators to warrant a hearing regarding his plea of guilty and conviction in Marion County Circuit Court on two counts of Sex Abuse III. The letter and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was mailed U. S. Certified Mail--Return Receipt Requested to Walter J Todd, Attorney for Griffith. The certified mail receipt #P 196 850 418 was signed on August 8, 1996 and received by TSPC on August 9, 1996. Mr. Griffith did not request a hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Thomas Glenn Griffith holds a Standard Teaching License endorsed for Physical Education and Health and valid from January 9, 1995 to March 6, 2000.
2. On or about June 18, 1996, Thomas Glenn Griffith plead guilty to two counts of Sex Abuse III, five counts of Harassment for inappropriate touching and one count of Official Misconduct II for touching students.
3. Griffith forfeited his teaching license to TSPC on June 28, 1996 pursuant to his plea agreement in Marion County Circuit Court. Under ORS 342. 175, TSPC is required to revoke the teaching license of an educator for conviction for Sex Abuse III and may revoke for offenses of Harassment and Official Misconduct.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

On or about June 18, 1996, Thomas Glenn Griffith plead guilty to two counts of Sex Abuse III, five counts of Harassment and one count of Official Misconduct as a result of inappropriate touching of students in his physical education classes in Marion County Circuit Court.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8 Thomas Glenn Griffith's conviction for Sex Abuse III violates the Standards for
9 Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators, OAR 584-20-040
10 and constitutes gross neglect of duty. Under ORS 342.175 the Commission is
11 required to revoke a license for conviction of this crime.
12

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
OPINION

23 The victims in this case were elementary students in the Salem-Keizer School
24 District. Griffith had contact with the students as the elementary physical
25 education teacher. Griffith acknowledge that between September 1994 and
26 May 1995 he touched four female students' breasts and one male student's
27 penis. Any sexual contact with students constitutes gross neglect of duty
under TSPC Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance. The court
also determined that Mr. Griffith's actions constituted Official Misconduct II.
These findings above are grounds for revoking Mr. Griffith's Oregon Teaching
License even if the requirement of revocation under ORS 342.175 did not
apply.

ORDER

The Commission accepts the surrender and revokes the Oregon Standard
Teaching License #281831 valid for physical education and health education
issued from January 9, 1995 through March 6, 2000, for conviction of the
crime of Sex Abuse III, Harassment and Official Misconduct II.

Dated this 27th day of September, 1996.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: David V. Myton

David V. Myton, Executive Secretary

DVM/cs