

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

In the Matter of the Educator)
License of)
SARAH SWANSON-SUHRSTEDT)

On December 13, 2013, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Sarah Louise Swanson-Suhrstedt (Swanson-Suhrstedt) in which the Commission charged her with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7012 1010 0003 2804 2384 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 receipt was returned, signed to the Commission on December 18, 2013. The regular mail was not returned to the Commission. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated December 13, 2013, and signed by Victoria Chamberlain, 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 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.”

On January 2, 2014, the Commission received Swanson-Suhrstedt 's request for a hearing. On January 8, 2014, Swanson-Suhrstedt withdrew her request a hearing and elected to default. The Commission, therefore, finds Swanson-Suhrstedt 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. Swanson-Suhrstedt has been licensed by the Commission since July 10, 2007. Swanson-Suhrstedt previously held an Initial I Teaching License, issued September 10, 2010, with endorsements in Multiple Subjects (Middle Level), Biology (HS,ML), and Chemistry

(HS,ML), which expired on September 9, 2013. During all relevant times, Swanson-Suhrstedt was employed by the Central Point School District.

2. On or about February of 2012, Swanson-Suhrstedt engaged in sexual relations with an eighteen year old student CB while CB was house-sitting at his grandparents' residence. Swanson-Suhrstedt's sexual encounters with CB included sexual intercourse, Swanson-Suhrstedt performing oral sex on CB, and other physical sexual conduct. Swanson-Suhrstedt was not the teacher for any of student CB's classes.
3. During the 2011-2012 school year, Swanson-Suhrstedt engaged in inappropriate conversations with an 18 year old male student MC via text messages and the cell phone application "Voxer". The conversations included sexually explicit subjects. On one occasion, Swanson-Suhrstedt sent MC a text message asking MC to come over to her residence. MC replied, "What would we do?" and Swanson-Suhrstedt responded, "Chemistry". MC replied to Swanson-Suhrstedt's text, "Sexual chemistry?" and Swanson-Suhrstedt answered, "Are you game?" In February of 2012, Swanson-Suhrstedt met with MC and discussed with him Swanson-Suhrstedt's sexual relations with another 18 year old male student, CB. Swanson-Suhrstedt told MC that she had sexual intercourse with CB, describing the act as "horrible" and being like a "jackhammer".
4. On or about February-March of 2012, Swanson-Suhrstedt engaged in inappropriate conversations with student JP. The conversations included sexually explicit subjects. On one occasion, Swanson-Suhrstedt discussed with JP her sexual relations with student, CB. Swanson-Suhrstedt told JP that she had sexual intercourse with CB at CB's grandparent's home. Swanson-Suhrstedt told JP that she cared about CB and wanted to have sex with him again. Swanson-Suhrstedt also told JP that she had taken a blood test and believed she might be pregnant and experiencing morning sickness.

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1 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 Swanson-Suhrstedt's conduct described in section two above, constitutes gross
3 neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it
4 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and*
5 *respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR
6 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring*
7 *appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*);
8 and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any sexual conduct with a student*) as that term is defined
9 by OAR 584-020-0005(5).

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11 Swanson-Suhrstedt's conduct described in section three above, constitutes gross
12 neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it
13 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and*
14 *respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR
15 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(B) (*Not accepting or*
16 *giving or exchanging romantic or overly personal gifts or notes with a student*), OAR 584-
17 020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and*
18 *conversations at all times*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any sexual conduct with a*
19 *student*) as that term is defined by OAR 584-020-0005(5).

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21 Swanson-Suhrstedt's conduct described in section four above, constitutes gross
22 neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it
23 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and*
24 *respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR
25 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring*
26 *appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*);
27 and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any sexual conduct with a student*) as that term is defined
28 by OAR 584-020-0005(5).

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30 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
31 342.175.

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby revokes Sarah Louise Swanson-Suhrstedt's Right to Apply
3 for an Educator license.

4 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 10th day of January, 2014.

5 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION



6 By: _____
7 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
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9 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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