

1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON
3

4 In the Matter of the Educator)
5 License of)
6)
7 JESSICA LEIGH STAPP)
8)
9)
10)

DEFAULT ORDER OF DENIAL OF
APPLICATION AND REVOCATION
OF RIGHT TO APPLY
FOR LICENSURE

11 On May 31, 2016, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)
12 issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Jessica Leigh Stapp (Stapp) in which the
13 Commission charged her with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First
14 Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7015 0640 0004 7539 6984 to the address on file
15 with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes
16 of proving a prima facie case. The Certified Mail receipt was returned to the Commission
17 “signed” on June 10, 2016. The first class mail was not returned to the Commission. The
18 Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated May 31, 2016, and signed by then Executive
19 Director, Victoria Chamberlain, stated:

19 “IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY
20 PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED
21 UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR
22 REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING OR IF YOU
23 FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER
24 OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF
25 YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE.”
26

27 On June 13, 2016, Stapp requested a hearing. On November 15, 2016, the Commission
28 received an email from Stapp advising that Stapp was withdrawing her request for a
29 hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Stapp to be in default and enters the following
30 findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the files and records of the
31 Commission concerning this matter.

32 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 33 1. On or about May 29, 2014, Stapp made application to the Commission and was
34 approved for her Student Teaching / Practicum. Stapp does not currently hold an
35 Oregon educator license. On October 1, 2015, Stapp made application to the
36 Commission for a Charter School Registry.
37

1 2. On Stapp's October 1, 2015, application for a Charter School Registry, Stapp
2 answered "Yes" to character question number seven (7), that states; "*Have you ever*
3 *been disciplined by any public agency responsible for licensure of any kind,*
4 *including but not limited to educational licensure?*" Stapp provided a written
5 explanation for her affirmative answer, explaining that she had been dismissed from
6 the teaching program at Southern Oregon University (SOU) for issues surrounding
7 Stapp's student teaching experience. Upon appeal, Stapp was reinstated to the SOU
8 program and placed again into a practicum / student teacher placement. Stapp again
9 failed to successfully complete the practicum portion of the program. As an
10 alternative to the SOU teacher preparation program, Stapp completed a Master's
11 Degree in Education.

12
13 3. Stapp's answers to the character questions as well as her written explanation
14 prompted an investigation into Stapp's failed attempts at student teaching.
15 Investigation determined that while Stapp was placed at Orchard Hill Elementary
16 School for her student teaching, the principal and the cooperating teacher contacted
17 SOU and requested Stapp be removed from their school. School officials advised that
18 Stapp had demonstrated a lack of professionalism and a lack of regard for
19 confidentiality with respect to students and families in the community. SOU officials
20 advised investigators that around the same time Stapp was removed from the
21 student teaching placement, Stapp also had poor grades in classes that required a
22 grade of "B" or higher. As a result, Stapp was removed from the teacher preparation
23 program. An appeal decision by an interim dean reinstated Stapp into the program
24 and SOU assigned Stapp to Jacksonville Elementary School to complete her student
25 teaching block. The administration and cooperating teacher of Jacksonville also
26 contacted SOU and requested that Stapp be removed from the student teaching
27 position at Jacksonville based on similar complaints as experienced at Orchard Hills.
28 Both involved schools advised that Stapp demonstrated a lack of professionalism,
29 was disrespectful, and did not have a filter when speaking with people. Stapp was
30 described as lacking needed social skills and maturity for the teaching profession.

1 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 Jessica Leigh Stapp engaged in unprofessional conduct as described above. This
3 conduct is grounds for denial of your charter school registration application under ORS
4 342.143(2). The above conduct also constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
5 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
6 *professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0030(1)(*The competent educator works effectively*
7 *with others — Students, staff, parents, and patrons. The competent educator is aware of*
8 *the ways the community identifies with the school, as well as community needs and ways*
9 *the school program is designed to meet these needs. The competent educator can*
10 *communicate with knowledge, clarity, and judgment about educational matters, the*
11 *school, and the needs of students*), OAR 584-020-0030(2)(a)(*The competent teacher*
12 *demonstrates willingness to be flexible in cooperatively working with others*), OAR 584-
13 020-0030(2)(b)(*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and*
14 *other patrons*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as is incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(a)(
15 *Keep the confidence entrusted in the profession as it relates to confidential information*
16 *concerning a student and the student's family*).
17

18 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
19 342.175.

20 **FINAL ORDER**

21 The Commission hereby denies Jessica Leigh Stapp's application for licensure and
22 revokes Jessica Leigh Stapp's right to apply for an Oregon educator license.

23 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 16th day of November, 2016.

24 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

25 By: Monica Beane
26 Dr. Monica Beane, Executive Director
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1 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS
2

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

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