

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

In the Matter of the )  
Teaching License of )  
ROBERT GREGORY BLANK )

On June 26, 2012, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Robert Gregory Blank (Blank) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty and Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7010 2780 0000 2187 3545 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 was signed for on June 27, 2012. The regular mail was not returned to the Commission. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated June 26, 2012, 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.”**

Blank did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Blank 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. Robert Gregory Blank has been licensed by the Commission since January 21, 2005. Blank's Initial I Teaching License with an endorsement in Multiple Subjects Self Contained (ECE, ELE), was issued on May 31, 2008, and would have expired on May 30, 2011; however, on April 14, 2011, Blank made timely application for renewal. Due to his timely application, his licensure status was extended pending the completion of the Commission's investigation. During all relevant times, Blank was employed by either the North Clackamas School District or the Gresham-Barlow School District.

1 2. On February 12, 2010, the Commission was notified by the Portland Police Bureau  
2 that Blank was under investigation for allegations of sex abuse which reportedly  
3 occurred on or around 1994-1997 in California, and 2000-2001 in Oregon.  
4

5 3. The 2000-2001 allegations came to light after Blank, while intoxicated, confessed to  
6 his sister Barbara Lane, that he had on or around 2000-2001, sexually abused a  
7 former girlfriend's then teenage niece. This was later reported by Lane to Blank's  
8 daughter Breann Blank-Sprague, who then disclosed that she had been sexually  
9 abused by Blank between the years 1994-1997. Concerned that Blank's sex abuse  
10 was not isolated to only his daughter, and out of concern about Blank's exposure to  
11 students as a teacher, she (Blank-Sprague) reported the 2000-2001 sex abuse to the  
12 Department of Human Services. The resulting law enforcement investigation  
13 identified the reported victim of the 2000-2001 allegations as Leslie Triplett, a  
14 family friend, (not the niece) of one of Blank's ex-girlfriends. Triplett denied any  
15 sexual abuse and refused to cooperate with the investigation. Triplett did tell  
16 authorities that she had heard that Blank had sexually abused his daughter in the  
17 past. This led authorities back to Blank-Sprague, who confirmed that Blank had  
18 sexually abused her when she was a teenager, sometime between 1994 and 1997.  
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20 4. According to the Commission investigation and police reports, on or around 1994-  
21 1997, Blank resided with his daughter, Breann Blank-Sprague in California. Blank  
22 subjected his daughter, who was a teenager at the time, to the following: Blank  
23 provided her with Marijuana and methamphetamines; requested that she watch  
24 pornographic movies with him; Blank offered to show her how to shave her pubic  
25 hair; verbally instructed her on how to perform oral sex on a man and how to  
26 masturbate herself; Blank showed her nude photos of his girlfriends and asked to see  
27 her naked and Blank masturbated in front of her and masturbated while rubbing his  
28 penis on her back. Local authorities elected not to file criminal charges despite  
29 having audio recordings of Blank admitting to these allegations because the victim,  
30 Blank's daughter, later recanted her story and refused to cooperate further.  
31

1 5. During the time of the law enforcement investigation and the Commission's  
2 investigation regarding the above allegations, Blank inappropriately influenced  
3 witnesses to change their statements and withdraw their cooperation with  
4 authorities. Blank told his daughter in a recorded phone conversation the following  
5 excerpts; *"I, I need you to protect me", "I'm begging you to not bring up our past.*  
6 *I'm begging you to protect me at all costs. I'm, I'm begging", "I don't want you to*  
7 *share anything about our past with, with the drugs or the inappropriate*  
8 *conversations. You have nothing to say. You love your dad."* Blank told his daughter  
9 other similar statements encouraging her to not cooperate with authorities and  
10 tampering with witnesses.

### 11 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12 During the times of 1994-1997, Robert Blank sexually abused his teenage  
13 daughter as described above, and during 2000-2001, Robert Blank, sexually abused a  
14 family friend, (not the niece) of one of Blank's ex-girlfriends. During the course of the  
15 related investigations, Robert Blank inappropriately influenced witnesses to change  
16 their statements and withdraw their cooperation with authorities. . This conduct  
17 establishes that Blank does not possess good moral character or mental and physical  
18 fitness as required to hold a license under ORS 342,143(2). This conduct also  
19 constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-  
20 0040(2) (*An applicant fails to meet the requirement of ORS 342.143 "good moral*  
21 *character" if the applicant engages in gross neglect of duty, gross unfitness, in*  
22 *violation of section (4) of this rule or other acts which are in violation of sections (1)*  
23 *and (3) of this rule*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-  
24 0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and*  
25 *dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any*  
26 *sexual conduct with a student*). This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in  
27 violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(b) (*Fraud or*  
28 *misrepresentation*), and OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts*  
29 *constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a conviction*).


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

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby revokes the licensure of Robert Gregory Blank.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012.

4 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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6  
7 By:   
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9 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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