

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

4 In the Matter of the ) DEFAULT ORDER OF  
5 Educator License of ) REVOCATION AND REVOCATION  
6 STEPHANIE MICHELE RODAKOWSKI ) OF RIGHT TO APPLY  
7

8 On February 5, 2016, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  
9 (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Stephanie Michele  
10 Rodakowski (Rodakowski) in which the Commission charged her with Gross Neglect of  
11 Duty and Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S.  
12 Certified Mail Receipt 7015 0640 0004 7539 6878 to the address on file with the  
13 Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of  
14 proving a prima facie case. The Certified Mail receipt was returned signed to the  
15 Commission on February 11, 2016. The regular mail was not returned to the  
16 Commission. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated February 5, 2016, and signed  
17 by Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director, stated:

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

26 Rodakowski did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Rodakowski to  
27 be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final  
28 order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.  
29

30 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 31 1. Stephanie Michele Rodakowski has been licensed by the Commission since January  
32 4, 2008. Rodakowski's Initial II Teaching License, with endorsements in Language  
33 Arts (HS, ML) and Multiple Subjects (MIDLVL), is valid from December 25, 2014,  
34 through September 27, 2018. During all relevant times Rodakowski was employed by  
35 the Springfield Public School District.
- 36 2. On November 4, 2015, in the Lane County Circuit Court, Rodakowski pled guilty to  
37 and was convicted of Endangering the Welfare of a Minor ORS 163.575(2), a class A

1 Misdemeanor; and Tampering with Physical Evidence ORS 162.295, a class A  
2 Misdemeanor. Rodakowski was sentenced to thirty (30) days in jail (each count),  
3 followed by a period of probation, required to submit to a sex offender evaluation,  
4 and ordered to surrender her teaching license. On November 20, 2015 the  
5 Commission received written notification that Rodakowski was surrendering her  
6 teaching license as required.

- 7 3. Rodakowski's convictions arose from allegations that on or about March 2015  
8 through July 2015, Rodakowski engaged in the exchange of sexual conversations via  
9 text messaging with AW, a 17 year old male student. Rodakowski's messages  
10 included sending digital images of herself to AW in various states of nudity. On one  
11 occasion, Rodakowski kissed AW, and on more than one occasion, Rodakowski  
12 asked AW to have sex with her. During the official investigation, Rodakowski  
13 attempted to delete all electronic records of her conduct and requested that AW do  
14 the same to destroy any evidence.

#### 15 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

16 Rodakowski's convictions constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS  
17 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*  
18 *professional judgment*); and OAR 584-020-0040(1)(x) (*ORS 163.575 – Endangering*  
19 *the Welfare of a Minor*). This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in violation of  
20 ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(d) (*Commission of an act listed in OAR 584-*  
21 *020-0040(1)*), and OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts*  
22 *constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a conviction*).

23  
24 Pursuant to ORS 342.175(3) and OAR 584-020-0040(1) the Teacher Standards  
25 and Practices Commission must revoke Rodakowski's license and Rodakowski's right to  
26 apply for a license based on his conviction of any of the crimes listed in ORS  
27 342.143(3)(a), or the substantial equivalent of any of those crimes.

28  
29 Furthermore, the conduct underlying Rodakowski's indictments and conviction  
30 constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-  
31 0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR

1 584-020-0040(4)(k) (*Violation of any order or rule of the Commission*); OAR 584-  
2 020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D)(*Honoring appropriate*  
3 *adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*), OAR 584-  
4 020-0035(3)(a)(*Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the*  
5 *law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any*  
6 *sexual conduct with a student*). Additionally, your convictions and conduct constitute  
7 “gross unfitness” in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c), OAR 584-020-0040(3)(a) and (d) as  
8 defined by OAR 584-020-0040 (5) (“*Gross unfitness is any conduct which renders an*  
9 *educator unqualified to perform his or her professional responsibilities*”).

10  
11 The Commission’s authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS  
12 342.175.

13 **FINAL ORDER**

14 The Commission hereby revokes Stephanie Michele Rodakowski’s educator  
15 license and revokes her right to apply for an educator license.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.

17 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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20 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

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25 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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