

1           BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

2                           OF THE STATE OF OREGON

3   In the Matter of the  
4   Administrative License of  
5   GARY LOREN WILSON

STIPULATION OF FACTS  
AND ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

6           On May 20, 1999, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission issued a Notice of  
7   Opportunity for Hearing to Gary Loren Wilson (Wilson) in which the Commission proposed to  
8   take disciplinary action against Wilson under ORS 342.175 through 342.190. The basis of the  
9   proposed action arose out of an investigation by the Commission after a teacher in the school in  
10   which Wilson is the principal, Mary Ellen Edwards, was convicted of failing to report child  
11   abuse under ORS 419B.010 in the Clackamas County District Court.

12           The Commission and Wilson have now reviewed the matters alleged and have agreed  
13   that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by entering this  
14   Stipulation of Facts and Order of Public Reprimand. In entering these stipulations, Wilson  
15   waives his right to a hearing. This agreement sets forth the facts upon which the parties have  
16   agreed and the Commission's order.

17                           **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

18           1.     Gary Loren Wilson has held an Oregon Administrative License since January 11,  
19   1981. The Current Standard Administrative License is valid to October 7, 2003. The  
20   Commission has not previously received a complaint concerning Mr. Wilson or taken any  
21   disciplinary action against him.

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1           2.       On or about April 1, 1998, Mary Ellen Edwards, a teacher supervised by Wilson  
2 in Oregon Trail SD, was visited by a middle school student who complained of a number of  
3 personal problems and conflicts within her family, including mistreatment by her older, teenaged  
4 brother. Among the problems disclosed was a complaint that the brother was "messaging with  
5 her." Edwards contended that she was not sure what the student meant by this term. However,  
6 the student asked Edwards to make her an appointment with a gynecologist and psychiatrist.

7           3.       After the meeting, Edwards consulted with Wilson, as her supervisor and building  
8 principal as required by school district policy. Edwards informed Mr. Wilson that she planned to  
9 contact the student's parents concerning the matter. Mr. Wilson did not direct Ms. Edwards to  
10 file a report with the appropriate authorities, as specified by school district policy, and he did not  
11 file his own report. On April 1, 1998, Edwards met with the student's mother at approximately  
12 2:30 p.m. and disclosed the various problems mentioned by the student, including the alleged  
13 sexual abuse by her brother.

14          4.       As a school employee, Ms. Edwards had a legal duty under ORS 419B.010 to  
15 report suspected child abuse to the State Office for Services to Children and Families (SCF) or to  
16 a law enforcement agency. Neither Wilson nor Edwards contacted the appropriate authorities.

17          5.       Edwards was charged with Failure to Report Child Abuse and Official  
18 Misconduct in Clackamas County District Court. On or about January 15, 1999, Edwards was  
19 found not guilty after a jury trial of official misconduct. However, the court found that Edwards  
20 was guilty of a violation of ORS 419B.010, the child abuse reporting law. Edwards was also  
21 forced to resign her position in the Oregon Trail School District as a result of this incident.

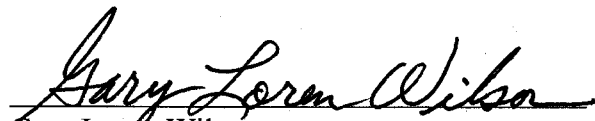
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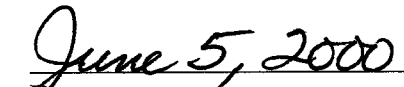
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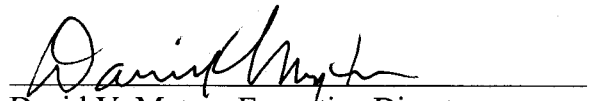
6. Wilson violated OAR 584-020-0025 (3)(a) by not assuring that the proper authorities were notified of possible child abuse as required by Oregon Trail School District policy.

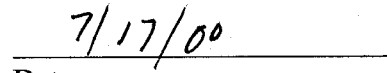
Wilson enters into this Stipulation of Facts with knowledge that the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission will adopt an Order of Public Reprimand for neglect of duty. This Stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Wilson nor the Commission is bound by these stipulations and Wilson retains all rights to a hearing on the allegations.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:

  
Gary Loren Wilson

  
Date

  
David V. Myton, Executive Director  
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

  
Date

#### ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Under Oregon Trail SD policy, Wilson had a responsibility to assure that suspected child abuse was reported to appropriate authorities. Failing to fulfill this responsibility constituted gross neglect of duty under OAR 584-020-0025(3)(a).

#### OPINION

In this case, Wilson appears to be an experienced administrator who felt that he was doing the right thing by concurring that Edwards should contact an interested parent. However, Wilson's handling of the situation resulted in criminal charges being brought against a teacher whom he supervised. The court found Edwards guilty of failure to follow the child abuse

1 reporting laws because she did not have the legal discretion to handle the case as decided by  
2 Wilson and Edwards.

3 The Commission concludes that Wilson is unlikely to repeat the conduct which resulted  
4 in the violation. He should be aware, however, that any repeat misconduct of this type may  
5 result in loss of licensure.

6 **ORDER**

7 The Commission imposes a public reprimand to Gary Loren Wilson for neglect of duty,  
8 and this Order shall serve as the reprimand. This Order shall not be an impediment to  
9 Mr. Wilson's renewing his Standard Administrative License to which he is otherwise eligible  
10 in 2003.

11 DATED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2000.

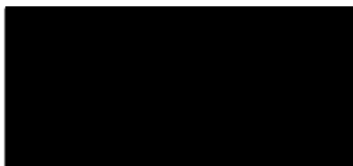
12 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

13 By:

14 *David V. Myton*  
David V. Myton, Executive Director

15 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

16 I hereby certify that on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000, I served the foregoing order by mailing a true  
17 copy thereof certified by me as such by U. S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail with  
18 Return Receipt Requested to Gary Loren Wilson at the following address:



21 *Melody Hanson*  
22 ~~Joe Gordon McKeever~~  
23 *Melody G. Hanson*