

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

In the Matter of the )  
Teaching License of )  
SHANNAN LOUISE SKIRVIN )

On March 24, 2008, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Shannan Louise Skirvin (Skirvin) in which the Commission charged her with misconduct under ORS 342.175. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7006 0810 0001 4602 2340 to the address Ms. Skirvin provided to the Commission. The U.S. First Class Mail was returned to the Commission on April 14, 2008 unsigned. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated March 24, 2008, and signed by Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director, stated:

"You, Shannan Louise Skirvin, are entitled to a hearing on the proposed action of the Commission. If you want a hearing, you must file a written request for a hearing with the Commission within 21 days of the date of this notice. Attached to this notice is a copy of the procedures, right of representation and other rights of parties relating to the conduct of a hearing as required under ORS 183.413(2)."

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

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Commission has licensed Ms. Skirvin since November 26, 1996. On November 1, 2001 the Commission issued Ms. Skirvin a Standard Teaching License valid until November 1, 2006, with a Standard Advanced Mathematics Endorsement.
2. During the 2005-2006 school year, while employed at North Valley High School in the Three Rivers/Josephine County School District, Ms. Skirvin, on numerous occasions, engaged or attempted to engage a female student (JV) in conversation regarding sexual contact. This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates the standards outlined in OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) and (D) (Maintain an

appropriate professional student-teacher relationship).

3. During the 2005-2006 school year, while employed at North Valley High School, Ms. Skirvin displayed inappropriate interest in a student's (JV) personal life, exchanged romantic notes and messages with the student, often via email. This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates the standards outlined in OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) and (B). (Maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship).
4. During the 2005-2006 school year, while employed at North Valley High School, Ms. Skirvin failed to report a student's (JV) romantic attachment to Ms. Skirvin. This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates the standards outlined in OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(C). (Reporting to the educator's supervisor if the educator has reason to believe a student is or may be becoming romantically attached to the educator.)
5. During the 2005-2006 school year, while employed at North Valley High School, Ms. Skirvin visited the home of a female student (JV). While there Ms. Skirvin laid in bed with her. In an email to the student, Ms. Skirvin subsequently wrote: *"You don't know how much I loved just lying there next to you. I thank you for giving me that intimacy... I can 100% see us spending the rest of our lives together... You have no idea how much I just wanted to let myself fall asleep on your bed... I don't ever want to sleep anywhere but next you in your amazing bed. I love you sooo much!"* This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates the standards outlined in OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D). This conduct also constitutes gross neglect of duty under OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) and OAR 584-020-0005(C) and (d). (Any sexual conduct with a student.)
6. During the 2005-2006 school year, while employed at North Valley High School, Ms. Skirvin provided alcoholic beverages to a female student (NN) while she was at Ms. Skirvin's home. NN's drinking of alcoholic beverages and intoxication is evident in a recorded telephone conversation involving Ms. Skirvin, JV and NN. This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty

1 in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates the standards outlined in OAR 584-  
2 020-0010(5) (Use of professional judgment); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates the  
3 standards outlined in OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) and (D) (Maintain an appropriate  
4 professional student-teacher relationship ). This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in  
5 violation of OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) because you engaged in the criminal act of providing  
6 alcohol to a person under the age of 21 years of age as provided in ORS 471.410(2).

- 7 7. Ms. Skirvin failed to respond to requests for information from, or participate in an interview  
8 with, the Commission. This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-  
9 020-0040(4)(p). (Subject to the exercise of any legal right or privilege, failure or refusal by an  
10 educator under investigation to respond to requests for information, to furnish documents or to  
11 participate in interviews with a Commission representative relating to a Commission  
12 investigation).

### 13 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

14 Failure to respond to requests for information and to participate in interviews with a  
15 Commission representative relating to a Commission investigation constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty  
16 in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(p). Ms. Skirvin's failure to refrain from exploiting professional  
17 relationships with any student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues, constitutes gross  
18 neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(b).  
19 Ms. Skirvin's inability to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship, constitutes  
20 gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-  
21 0035(1)(c). Ms. Skirvin attempted to conceal her efforts to "groom" a student for a sexual relationship  
22 in violation of OAR 584-0020-0035(3)(a). Ms. Skirvin violated OAR 584-0020-0040(5)(e) when she  
23 allowed a student to consume alcohol in her home. The Commission's authority to impose discipline  
24 in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

1 ORDER

2 The Commission hereby revokes Shannan Louise Skirvin's right to apply for a teaching  
3 license.

4 IT IS SO ORDERED this 19 day of May, 2008.

5 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

6 By:   
7  
8 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
9

10 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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