

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of)
STEVEN VIRGIL MORTON)

DEFAULT ORDER OF
LICENSE REVOCATION

"You, Steven Virgil Morton, 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)."

FINDINGS OF FACT

2. Mr. Morton was employed by Three Rivers School District from August 28, 2000, until resignation, in lieu of termination, effective January 23, 2006.

3. During the 2004-2005 school year Mr. Morton failed to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship with ED, a female student attending Illinois Valley High School. Mr. Morton's conduct included telephoning her home and emailing her regarding a professionally inappropriate personal relationship; visiting ED at her home; transporting ED alone in his personal vehicle on more than one occasion; and taking ED to dinner alone twice in March of 2005.

4. In March, 2005, Morton was issued a written directive by the principal of the Illinois Valley High School to never be alone w/ ED or any student. During the summer of 2005, while serving as girls' basketball coach, Mr. Morton violated that directive by failing to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship with ED, a female student attending Illinois Valley High School and participating in girls' basketball. On several occasions while traveling for basketball tournaments, Mr. Morton encouraged and allowed ED to visit him alone in his motel room late at night; and took ED out to dinner alone.

5. During the 2005-2006 school year Mr. Morton failed to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship with ED, a female student attending Illinois Valley High School. Mr. Morton's conduct included buying ED personal gifts, and sending ED personal emails. The emails Mr. Morton sent to ED discussed his personal feelings for ED. In August of 2005, Mr. Morton sent an email to ED in which he wrote, "I have played on emotions that I should not have. My love for you has gone places it should not have gone."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Steven Virgil Morton's conduct with ED is in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o), as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c). Mr. Morton's failure to abide by the principal's written directive of March of 2005 is in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(2)(a). This misconduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty. The Commission has the authority to impose discipline in this matter under ORS 342.120 through 342.430 and OAR Chapter 584.

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DEFAULT ORDER

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of facts and conclusions of law, and based thereon, hereby revokes the Initial Teaching License issued to Steven Virgil Morton.

Issued and dated this 3 day of November, 2006.

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

By: 

Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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