

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

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of)
STEVEN ANDREW MORRIS)

On February 10, 2009, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Steven Andrew Morris (Morris) in which the Commission charged him with misconduct under ORS 342.175. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7008 1140 0002 8581 2478 to the address on file with the Commission. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated February 10, 2009 and signed by Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director, stated:

"You, Steven A. Morris, 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)."

The certified mail receipt shows that Morris received the notice on February 12, 2009. Morris did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Morris 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. On or about February 21, 2007, while working for the Camas Valley School District, you shoved a student (CD) during class. The physical contact with the student was not the result of a need to physically restrain the student based on potential harm the student may cause to him or herself, property or others as allowed by district policy.
2. On May 14, 2008, in an interview with a Commission investigator, you were not forthcoming regarding the incident where you shoved CD, claiming that your contact with CD was a reaction move that only resulted in touching CD's shirt.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Steven Andrew Morris' conduct toward student CD constitutes gross neglect of duty, ORS 342.175(b) in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(d) (*"Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow employees, or visitors to the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250"*). This conduct also violates OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) (*"Substantial deviation from professional standards of competency set forth in OAR 584-020-0010 through 584-020-0030"*), as it incorporates the following: OAR 584-020-0025(2)(a) (*"Establishing and maintaining classroom management that is conducive to learning"*); OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*"Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual"*); and OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*"Use of professional judgment"*). The Commission has the authority to discipline Morris in regards to this conduct pursuant ORS 342.175(1)(b), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(d) and (n). During an interview with a TSPC investigator, Morris was not completely forthcoming with regard to this incident. This conduct is evidence of gross neglect of duty, ORS 342.175(1)(b), in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c) (*"knowing falsification of any document or knowing misrepresentation directly related to licensure, employment or professional duties"*). The Commission has the authority to discipline Morris in regards to this conduct pursuant ORS 342.175(1)(b) and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c).

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1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of facts and
3 conclusions of law, and based thereon, hereby imposes a Public Reprimand on the Standard
4 Teaching License issued to Steven Andrew Morris.

5 Furthermore, the Commission imposes a two (2) year probation upon Morris to
6 commence the date of adoption of this order and subject to the following terms and conditions of
7 probation:

8 1. Morris shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of
9 Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.

10 Violation of any term or condition of probation shall constitute an independent basis for
11 the Commission to revoke Morris' teaching license or otherwise impose discipline, after first
12 providing Morris with notice and opportunity for hearing.

13 Issued and dated this 14th day of May, 2009.

14 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

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17 By: Victoria Chamberlain
18 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

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20 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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22 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY BE
23 OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE
24 OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS
25 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.