

Stephanie Mongold
Permanent Revocation/Voluntary Surrender

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Ms. Mongold, a high school teacher with Hamblen County Schools, resigned after law enforcement notified the school district of an investigation into allegations of having inappropriate relationships with students. A student reported to law enforcement that, during the fall of 2017, he and Ms. Mongold were having sexual communications via social media. The student reported that on the evening of December 9, 2017, Ms. Mongold picked him up at his house and drove to a location where they spent the night together and had sex. Ms. Mongold stated she had done some bad things and made bad decisions with 2 underage students. No criminal charges resulted due to the lack of cooperation from the student and his family.

Applicable Rule: 0520-02-03-.09(1)(c) defines Inappropriate Communication (Explicit) as Any communication between an educator and a student that describes, represents, or alludes to sexual activity or any other illicit activity.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(e) defines Inappropriate Physical Contact as Unnecessary, and unjustified physical contact with a student. Examples of such unnecessary and unjustified contact include, but are not limited to sexual contact, physical altercations, horseplay, tickling, improper use of corporal punishment, and rough housing.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(f) defines Inappropriate Physical Contact With Harm as Contact as described in subsection(e) above that results in physical or mental harm or the potential of physical or mental harm to a student.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) defines Good Cause as Conduct that calls into question the fitness of an educator to hold a license including, but not limited to, noncompliance with security guidelines for Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) or successor tests pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-607, failure to report licensure actions under parts (3), (4), or (5), or violation of any provision in the Teacher Code of Ethics as contained in T.C.A. §§ 49-5-1001, *et seq.*

0520-02-03-.09(1)(l) defines Permanent Revocation as the nullification of an educator's license without eligibility for future reinstatement.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(e) provides that the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for inappropriate physical contact with a student.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(g) provides the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for other good cause as defined in subparagraph (1)(k) of this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(h) provides the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for any offense contained in paragraphs (4) and/or (5) of this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(5)(iii) provides that an individual holding an educator's license who is found to have engaged in inappropriate communication of an explicit nature with a student shall be subject to permanent revocation.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(6)(ii) provides that an individual holding an educator's license who is found to have engaged in inappropriate physical contact with a student that results in harm or potential harm to the student shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a suspension for not less than two (2) years up to and including permanent revocation.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(8) provides An individual holding an educator's license who is found to have violated the teacher code of ethics shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a suspension for no less than one (1) year up to and including revocation.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(4) provides that an educator shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **permanently revoke** her educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

July 2019 – The Board approved the voluntary surrender of a teacher's license for sending explicit text messages to a student including plans to meet up for sexual purposes.

The Recommendation:

The Board staff recommends that the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by the Respondent based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.