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Teacher Standards & Practices Commission

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

3 In the Matter of the ) STIPULATION OF FACTS,  
4 Teaching License of ) AND ORDER OF REVOCATION  
5 STEPHEN JOHN KOLLER ) OF RIGHT TO APPLY

6 On April 30, 2004, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)  
7 received a report from David C. Burgess, Superintendent indicating that Burgess recommended  
8 the dismissal of Stephen John Koller (Koller) to the Three Rivers School District Board based  
9 upon allegations that Koller violated Standards by engaging in an inappropriate relationship with  
10 a female student.

11 After review of the matters alleged, Mr. Koller and the Commission agree that their  
12 respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain  
13 facts and revocation of his right to apply for a teaching license.

14 This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to  
15 be imposed. Mr. Koller stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the Commission's  
16 files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth below. In  
17 entering into this stipulation, Mr. Koller waives the right to a hearing to contest the finding of fact,  
18 conclusion of law and order set forth below. Mr. Koller understands that the Commission will  
19 revoke his right to apply for a teaching license.

20 This stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the  
21 Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Mr. Koller nor the  
22 Commission are bound by these Stipulations and Mr. Koller retains all rights to a hearing on the  
23 allegations.

24 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

25 1. The Commission issued a Transitional Teaching License endorsed in Biology to  
26 Mr. Koller on August 27, 2001. Said license expired on August 27, 2004.

27 2. On August 24, 2001, Three Rivers School District hired Koller to serve as a biology  
28 teacher at Illinois Valley High School in Cave Junction, Oregon. On January 21, 2003,

1 Superintendent Burgess reported to the Commission that Koller had been Reprimanded for  
2 failing to maintain professional boundaries with a female student.

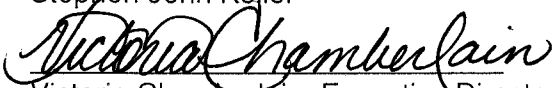
3 3. The Commission conducted an investigation into this matter beginning January 21,  
4 2003. The Commission obtained a copy of the Josephine County Sheriff's Report wherein both  
5 Mr. Koller and the female student, IF, denied an inappropriate student-teacher relationship.  
6 During an interview with the Commission's investigator Mr. Koller denied an inappropriate  
7 student-teacher relationship with, IF, a female student attending Illinois Valley High School. The  
8 Commission referred Mr. Koller for boundaries counseling with a Licensed Clinical Social  
9 Worker. On August 8, 2003, the Commission adopted a resolution to take no further action in  
10 the matter.

11 4. The Commission's July 2004 investigation indicates that Mr. Koller failed to maintain  
12 an appropriate student-teacher relationship with, IF, a female student while he was teaching at  
13 Illinois Valley High School.

14 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

15   
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen John Koller

9-13-04  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

17   
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

8-19-04  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

20 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

21 Stephen John Koller failed to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher  
22 relationship with, IF, a female student in violation of OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c). Mr. Koller failed  
23 to maintain the dignity of the profession by exemplifying personal integrity and honesty in  
24 violation of OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a) and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c) during his interview with the  
25 Commission's investigator on March 25, 2003. This misconduct constitutes Gross Neglect of  
26 Duty. The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS  
27 342.175.

28 ///

1 **ORDER**

3 The Commission adopts the above Stipulation of Facts and revokes the right of Stephen  
3 John Koller to apply for an Oregon Teaching License.

4 IT IS SO ORDERED this 7 day of October, 2004.

5 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

6  
7 By: *Victoria Chamberlain*  
8 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

9  
10 Approved as to form:

11  
12  
13 *Elizabeth A. Joffe*  
14 Elizabeth A. Joffe, OSB# 94024  
15 Attorney for Stephen John Koller

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