

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

**In the Matter of the
Teaching License of
SHERYL LEE KNOWLTON**

**STIPULATION OF FACTS,
ORDER OF REPRIMAND
AND PROBATION**

On or about January 29, 2002, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Sheryl Lee Knowlton (Knowlton) in which the Commission proposed to take disciplinary action against her under ORS 342.175 through ORS 342.190.

After review of the matters alleged, Ms. Knowlton and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, the imposition of a written reprimand and imposition of terms of probation. This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Ms. Knowlton waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusion of law and order set forth below.

STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. The Commission has licensed Ms. Knowlton as an Oregon Educator continuously since September 20, 1991. She currently holds a Standard Oregon Teaching License with Standard Reading and Basic Language Arts Endorsements valid until January 2, 2006.

2. Ms. Knowlton was employed by Ontario School District 8C, Ontario High School.

1 3. On or about April 3, 2001, Knowlton assisted an Ontario High School Student
 2 in ordering 23 knives and swords (edged weapons) from the Smokey Mountain Knife
 3 Works and arranged to have these weapons delivered to Ontario High School on or
 4 about April 11, 2001. Knowlton was present when the order was placed and provided
 5 her classroom phone, personal calling card and personal credit card to facilitate the
 6 order.

7 4. Ms. Knowlton intended the knives and swords be used by students in a non-
 8 school sponsored drama.

9 5. Ontario School District policy prohibits the possession on school premises of
 10 knives and swords as described in finding of fact number three.

11 6. Ms. Knowlton's conduct in facilitating the ordering and delivery of the knives
 12 and swords at school violated the district policy.

13 This stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the
 14 Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Ms. Knowlton nor
 15 the Commission are bound by these stipulations and Ms. Knowlton retains all rights to a
 16 hearing on the allegations.

17 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

18 Sheri Lee Knowlton
 19 Sheri Lee Knowlton
 20

1-28-04
 Date

21 Victoria Chamberlain
 22 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
 23 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
 24

1-28-04
 Date

25 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

26 Ms. Knowlton violated OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c), Gross Neglect of Duty, as it
 27 incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(2)(b) and (e) by assisting a student to order 23 knives

and swords to be delivered to school and to be used by students in a drama. Her action
demonstrated poor judgment and undermined district interests in providing a safe
learning environment.

ORDER

The Commission reprimands Ms. Knowlton and places her on 2-years probation
subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to employing with a district as teacher, Ms. Knowlton shall provide a
copy of this order to the district;

Ms. Knowlton shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical
Performance under Chapter OAR 584, Division 020 and adhere to all safety policies of
any employing district.

Violation of the terms of this probation may constitute an independent basis for
the Commission to impose discipline, up to and including revocation of Ms. Knowlton's
teaching license subject to Ms. Knowlton's right to a hearing on the issue of whether
she violated probation.

Dated this 28 day of January 2004.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: *Victoria Chamberlain*
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

Approved as to form:

Thomas Doyle
Thomas Doyle
Attorney for Sheryl Lee Knowlton