

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

In the Matter of the
Teaching License of
TIMOTHY W. HOOD

STIPULATION AND ORDER OF
SUSPENSION

On or about March 6, 2000, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) notified Timothy W. Hood that a report had been filed alleging that Mr. Hood misused his school computer to access sexually explicit material over the Internet. The complaint was filed by Len Arney, the Assistant to the Superintendent of the Springfield School District.

Mr. Hood fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation and did not contest the allegations. After review of the matters alleged, Mr. Hood and the Commission have agreed that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and the imposition of a 90 day suspension, followed by a period of probation of two years. This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Mr. Hood waives his right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusion of law and order set forth below.

STIPULATED FACTS

1. Mr. Hood holds an Oregon Teaching License. He was employed by the Springfield School District as a substitute teacher from approximately October of 1999 to February of 2000. Mr. Hood has a positive record with the Springfield School District.
2. During the 1999-2000 school year, a District-owned computer with Internet access was present in Mr. Hood's classroom for his use in connection with his assigned responsibilities.

3. There was a clearly defined, acceptable use policy in force at that time. On said computer, there was monitoring software to prohibit all users of the District's network from accessing sexually explicit or pornography websites. The District's policy prohibited the use or attempted use of said computer in Internet access of adult sites, which were also banned via the screening mechanism.
4. The District's screening software recorded that on multiple occasions during non-student contact time, Mr. Hood used his classroom computer to access sexually explicit materials through the Internet.
5. No students were present at the times Mr. Hood viewed the above materials on the computer, nor was there any risk of students viewing the inappropriate material. However, Mr. Hood realized that this was in violation of District policy and that he should not have used the computer for viewing sexually explicit materials and expressed remorse for so doing.

ULTIMATE FINDING OF FACT

Timothy W. Hood used the computer equipment owned by his employer, Springfield School District, located on school premises, to access sexually explicit materials. Although Mr. Hood believed his conduct was private, he should have known that accessing such materials at the workplace with a District owned computer was inappropriate and against District policy.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Timothy W. Hood's activities constitute a gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040 (4)(a) and OAR 584-020-004 (4)(b).

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

IT IS SO STIPULATED:



Timothy W. Hood

6-15-00
Date



David V. Myton

6/19/00
Date

ORDER

The Oregon Teaching License of Timothy Hood is suspended for a period of 90 days from July 1, 2000. At the end of this suspension period, Mr. Hood's teaching license will be reinstated upon application and a showing by Mr. Hood that he has undergone an evaluation at his own expense by a psychotherapist or medical professional acceptable to the Commission, and the evaluator submits a written report to the Commission attesting (1) Mr. Hood is fit to work with children and teenagers, and (2) there is a high probability he will not use school district equipment to access sexually explicit materials or engage in similar inappropriate behavior.

Following the reinstatement of his teaching license, Mr. Hood shall be placed on probation by the Commission for a period of two years subject to the following conditions:

1. Mr. Hood shall substantially comply with any treatment or counseling as recommended by the individual who completed the evaluation described above.

Mr. Hood shall authorize and sign any consent forms as necessary for the treatment provider or counselor to furnish records to or discuss Mr. Hood's treatment with the Commission.

2. Mr. Hood shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance under Chapter OAR 584, Division 020.
3. Mr. Hood shall provide information as requested by the Commission to verify that he has complied with the conditions of probation.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2000.

By: David V. Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Director

7/17/00
Date