

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

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|----------------------|---|------------------|
| In the Matter of the |) | |
| Teaching License of |) | DEFAULT ORDER |
| ELLEN M. IRISH |) | REVOKING LICENSE |
| |) | |

On or about February 13, 1996, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission received information from the Rogue River School District, indicating that Ellen M. Irish had entered a plea in U.S. District Court of guilty to the felony charge of knowingly and intentionally maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. The Executive Secretary took action to notify Ms. Irish of intent to revoke her Oregon Teaching license, and to inform her of an opportunity for hearing. The notice, dated April 12, 1996, and signed by David V. Myton, Executive Secretary, stated:

"You, Ellen M. Irish, are entitled to a hearing on the proposed revocation of your Oregon Teaching license. If you desire a hearing, you must notify the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in writing, within 21 days of the date of this notice."

The notice of opportunity for hearing was sent by U.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. The Return Receipt #P 196 850 998 was signed by Ms. Irish on April 16, 1996, and received by TSPC on April 17, 1996. Ms. Irish did not request a hearing.

FINDING OF FACT

1. On February 6, 1996, in United States District Court, Eugene, Oregon, Ellen M. Irish entered a plea of guilty to the felony charge of knowingly and intentionally maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance in violation of federal law.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Ellen M. Irish violated TSPC Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under 584-20-040(4)(o) by substantial deviation from professional standards of ethics. Under 584-20-040(5)(c) and (e) her conviction for violating federal laws, and her admission of facts constituting criminal conduct are evidence of gross unfitness to serve as an educator.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Under ORS 342.175(1)(d) a conviction for violating any law of this or any state of the United States involving the use, sale or possession of controlled substances is grounds for revoking an educator's license.

OPINION

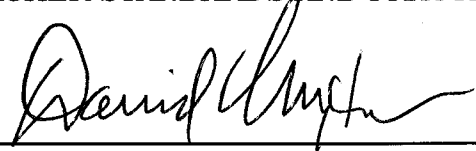
As an educator Irish had an obligation to respect and obey the law and exemplify personal integrity and honesty. Her conduct bears a demonstrable relationship to her ability to perform the duties of an educator. Schools and police agencies strive to educate students on the dangers of use of controlled substances. Irish's participation in the manufacture of controlled substances was incongruous with her role as an educator.

ORDER

The Commission revokes the Oregon Teaching License #242190, issued to Ellen M. Irish,

Dated this 24th day of May, 1996.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 
David V. Myton, Executive Secretary

NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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

DVM/cs

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing order by mailing a true copy thereof certified by me as such by regular U.S. mail and by U.S. Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested to:

ELLEN M. IRISH
701 SOLDIER CREEK ROAD
GRANTS PASS OR 97526

Dated this 24th day of May, 1996.

By: 
Charlene A. Smith
Secretary to the Commission