

**BEFORE THE TEACHERS STANDARDS AND PRACTICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF OREGON**

**In the Matter of the
Teaching License of
ELISE K. REEL**

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

On or about April 26, 2000, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from David Voves the Superintendent for Dallas School District No. 2. The report indicated that Elise K. Reel visited Valentino's Adult Shop in Salem, Oregon, on April 1, 2000, in the company of two of her students; both students were eighteen years of age or older. The Commission conducted an investigation. Ms. Reel fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation. The investigation confirmed that Ms. Reel accompanied three of her students (two current and one former), all over the age of eighteen, to Valentino's Adult Shop in Salem, Oregon, on April 1, 2000. The investigation further confirmed that during the 1996-1997 school year Ms. Reel communicated with a male student about the appropriateness of pursuing a romantic relationship with her while the male was still a student.

After review of the matters alleged, Ms. Reel 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 six (6) month suspension of Ms. Reel's Teaching License in accordance with OAR 584-050-0027. This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Ms. Reel waives her right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusion of law and order set forth below.

FINDINGS OF FACTS

1. Ms. Reel holds a Standard Oregon Teaching License with an endorsement in Standard Music.

2. Ms. Reel graduated from St. Mary's of the Valley School in Beaverton in 1988; received her Bachelor's degree in Music and Music Education from Oregon State University in 1992; and received her Master of Arts in Teaching from Oregon State University in 1993.

3. Ms. Reel was employed by the Dallas School District No. 2 as a high school choral music teacher from August 31, 1993 until she resigned on April 19, 2000. At the time Ms. Reel resigned pursuant to the allegations which led to the district's report to the Commission, she directed six (6) choirs in the district and provided voice lessons to many individual singers involved in her choral music programs and activities. Her choirs included, among others, a seventy-five (75) member school choir and a sixteen (16) member jazz choir called the Dragonaires. She had very high expectations for the program and the level of commitment and competence of the students who were part of it.

4. During the 1996-97 school year Ms. Reel developed a close student-teacher relationship with MW, one of the senior male students in the school choir who was also active in the Dragonaires. MW took private voice lessons from Ms. Reel, competed in district and State solo vocal competitions, and was active in producing district musical programs.

5. In the spring of 1997 MW spoke with Ms. Reel about their relationship. They agreed that it would not be appropriate to pursue a romantic relationship until after MW graduated. Ms. Reel and MW attest that they did not have a romantic or physical relationship

while MW was a high school student. However, during the late summer of 1997, Ms. Reel and MW began dating and are now friends. Ms. Reel did not report this conversation to her supervisor as required by OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(C).

6. On April 1, 2000, Ms. Reel attended a performance of Cabaret, a musical review performed by district choral students. After the performance, Ms. Reel and Jeffrey Witt, another educator, went to dinner with two of her students and a former student, all over the age of eighteen. Sometime later in the evening, the students and the former student, persuaded Ms. Reel and the others to visit Valentino's Adult Shop in Salem, Oregon. They entered Valentino's, arriving at approximately midnight, and remained in the shop between five (5) and fifteen (15) minutes according to statements made by those in the group. No one in the group watched any videos or made any purchases at the adult shop.

7. Ms. Reel is very sorry for her actions in regard to the above matters. She very much wishes to resume her teaching career, to which she is committed. Since her resignation from the district she has engaged in a program of "boundaries" counseling concerning issues underlying her misconduct from a trained counselor who specializes in gender and boundary counseling, Nancy Huppertz. Ms. Reel has also engaged in a course of psychotherapy concerning issues underlying her misconduct from a Board Certified Psychiatrist, Robert Gross, M.D. Ms. Reel has authorized these professionals to submit confidential reports to the Commission.

8. Ms. Reel has acknowledges that her errors in judgment and conduct are grounds for discipline and enters into this stipulation with the knowledge that the Commission will suspend her Oregon Teaching License for a period of six (6) months beginning November 1,

2000 and impose a two-year probation upon reinstatement of her Teaching License.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Reel made errors in judgment and conduct in speaking with the male student about not pursuing a romantic relationship until after the student graduated and in accompanying the students to Valentino's Adult Shop in Salem, Oregon.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. Ms. Reel's failure to use professional judgment in accompanying the students to an adult book store as set forth in OAR 584-020-0010(5); failure to report to her supervisor the content of the conversation she had with MW regarding their relationship as required by OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(C); failure to refrain from exploiting her professional relationship with MW OAR 584-020-0035, constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty within the meaning of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o).

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

It is so stipulated:

Elise K. Reel

Elise K. Reel

Nov. 1, 00

Date

David V. Myton

David V. Myton, Executive
Director

11/2/00

Date

ORDER

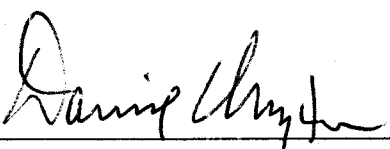
Based on the foregoing the Commission suspends the Oregon Teaching License of Elise K. Reel for a period of six (6) months beginning November 1, 2000 and a two-year probation to commence upon the reinstatement of her Teaching License.

The terms of probation are as follows:

1. Ms. Reel shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under OAR 584, Division 20;
2. Ms. Reel shall provide to the Commission such information as the Commission requests to verify that she has complied with the conditions of probation, including a statement from her employing district verifying that she has complied with all the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under OAR 584, Division 20;
3. 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. Reel's Teaching License and subject to Ms. Reel's right to a hearing on the issue of whether she violated probation.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th day of November, 2000.

By:


David V. Myton, Executive Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission