1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON 3 4 In the Matter of the) DEFAULT ORDER OF 5 6 **Educator License of**) REVOCATION OF RIGHT KRISTEN E. STICKLER) TO APPLY FOR LICENSURE 7 8 On August 17, 2021, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued 9 a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Kristen E. Stickler (Stickler) in which the Commission 10 charged her with Gross Neglect of Duty and Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First 11 Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7021 0350 0000 8183 7612 to the address on file with 12 the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving 13 a prima facie case. The Certified Mail was returned to the Commission signed on August 19, 2021. The regular first class mail was not returned to the Commission, and assumed delivered. The 14 15 Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated August 17, 2021, and signed by Dr. Anthony Rosilez, 16 **Executive Director, stated:** 17 18 "IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY PERIOD, 19 YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED UNLESS YOUR 20 FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR REASONABLE CONTROL. IF 21 YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, 22 OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT 23 YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER 24 OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR 25 LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE." 26 27 The Commission received a letter from Stickler's legal counsel dated August 31, 2021, informing 28 the Commission Stickler did not desire to exercise her right to a hearing. The Commission, 29 therefore, finds Stickler to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of 30 law, and final order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter. 31 32 FINDINGS OF FACT 33 1. Kristen E. Stickler has been licensed by the Commission since February 21, 2019. Stickler 34 held a Restricted Substitute Teaching License, valid from February 21, 2019, though 35 February 20, 2020. During all relevant times, Stickler was employed by the Jefferson 36 County School District (JCSD). 37 38 2. On April 29, 2019, the Commission received a report from Oregon's Department of Human 39 Services (DHS) alleging Stickler had engaged in a sexual relationship with a male student 40 which could constitute a violation of Commission rules. On April 30, 2019, the JCSD

submitted a report to the Commission indicating Stickler had been arrested and criminally charged on multiple felony counts of sexual abuse for a sexual relationship with a male student

3. Law enforcement investigation determined that from August 2018, to April 2019, Stickler engaged in a relationship with a thirteen (13) year-old male student who attended Jefferson County Middle School, which later developed into a sexual relationship. On June 5, 2019, Stickler admitted to police that she had provided sexually explicit photos to the student and she engaged in sexual acts with the student.

4. On April 22, 2019, Stickler was arrested for five (5) felony counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree; three (3) felony counts of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree; one (1) felony count of Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree; and one (1) misdemeanor count of Endangering the Welfare of a Minor. On June 23, 2019, Stickler plead guilty to, was convicted of, and sentenced to forty (40) months of incarceration on one (1) felony count of ORS 163.425 Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree and one (1) count felony count of ORS 163.433 Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree. Stickler's conviction required registering as a sex offender.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Kirsten E. Stickler's criminal convictions constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment); and OAR 584-020-0040(1) (The Commission will deny, revoke or deny the right to apply for a license or charter school registration to any applicant or educator who, has been convicted of any of the crimes listed in ORS 342.143, or the substantial equivalent of any of those crimes if convicted in another jurisdiction), including ORS 163.425 Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree and ORS 163.433 Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree. This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(c) (Conviction of violating any federal, state, or local law. A conviction includes any final judgment of conviction by a court whether as the result of guilty plea, no contest plea or any other means); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(d) (Commission of an act listed in OAR 584-020-0040(1)); and OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (Admission of or engaging in acts constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a conviction).

Pursuant to ORS 342.175(3) and OAR 584-020-0040(1) the Teacher Standards and

1	Practices Commission must revoke Stickler's license and/or Stickler's right to apply for a license
2	based on conviction of any of the crimes listed in ORS 342.143(3)(a), or the substantial equivalent
3	of any of those crimes, or convicted of attempt to commit such crimes as defined in ORS 161.405.
4	
5	Stickler's conduct underlying her convictions, as described above, constitutes gross neglect
6	of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-
7	020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(0) as it incorporates OAR
8	584-020-0035(3)(a) (Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law,
9	exemplifying personal integrity and honesty).
10	
11	Furthermore, Stickler's criminal convictions and conduct related to her convictions
12	constitute "gross unfitness" in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(3)(c) and (d) as
13	defined by OAR 584-020-0040 (5) (Gross unfitness is any conduct which renders an educator
14	unqualified to perform his or her professional responsibilities); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (Any
15	sexual conduct with a student) as defined by OAR 584-020-0005(5); and OAR 584-020-
16	0040(4)(0) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (Honoring appropriate adult
17	boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times).
18	
19	The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.
20	
21	FINAL ORDER
22	The Commission hereby revokes Kristen E. Stickler's right to apply for an Oregon educator
23	licensure.
24	IT IS SO ORDERED THIS/ day of October, 2021.
25	TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
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	By: Anthony Rosilez Executive Director
27	By:
28 29	DI. Anthony Roshez, executive Director
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