

- 1 2. On August 2, 2022, the Commission received a report from the DSD indicating
2 Claxton was arrested and charged with criminal conduct that could constitute a
3 violation of Commission rules. Specifically, the DSD reported Claxton was
4 arrested and charged with Sexual Abuse in the First Degree which involved a
5 minor-aged female.
6
- 7 3. Investigation found that in the evening on or about June 23, 2022, Claxton was
8 visiting an adult friend at the friend's residence in McMinnville. Also present in
9 the residence were the friend's two (2) children. During the visit, Claxton
10 socialized with and watched a movie with the family. Claxton intended to spend
11 the night at the friend's residence. While Claxton was watching the movie in the
12 living room, Claxton was resting on a portable mattress located on the floor
13 which would serve as his bed for the evening. Also resting on the mattress and
14 watching the movie was the friend's ten (10) year-old daughter. Claxton fell
15 asleep watching the movie. The daughter also fell asleep on the mattress.
16
- 17 4. Investigation found early in the morning hours on or about June 24, 2022,
18 Claxton touched the clothed buttocks of the daughter. Claxton then touched the
19 daughter's body under her clothing. As this occurred, the daughter immediately
20 arose from the bed and indicated she was going to sleep in her father's bedroom.
21
- 22 5. On July 18, 2022, Claxton was arrested by the McMinnville Police Department on
23 one felony count of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree which involved the friend's
24 ten (10) year-old daughter. On October 18, 2023, Claxton accepted a plea
25 agreement in which he plead guilty to one misdemeanor count of Harassment by
26 intentionally subjecting the ten (10) year-old to offensive physical contact by
27 touching her intimate parts. On October 19, 2023, Claxton was convicted of one
28 misdemeanor count of Harassment. On May 26, 2022, Claxton was sentenced in
29 Yamhill County Circuit Court to a suspended sentence and supervised probation
30 for eighteen (18) months. Some of the conditions of Claxton's probation include
31 not being around persons under eighteen (18) years of age or visiting places know

1 to be frequented by persons under eighteen (18) years of age without written
2 approval by supervising official.

3
4 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

5 Henry J. Claxton' conduct as described in section four (4) above constitutes gross
6 neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any sexual*
7 *conduct with a student*) as defined by OAR 584-020-0005(5); OAR 584-020-
8 0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity*
9 *of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
10 *professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates and OAR 584-
11 020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct*
12 *and conversations at all times*) and OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of*
13 *the profession by respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and*
14 *honesty*).

15 Claxton's criminal conviction and conduct related to his conviction as described
16 in sections four (4) and five (5) above, constitutes gross unfitness in violation of ORS
17 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5) (*Gross unfitness is any conduct which renders an*
18 *educator unqualified to perform his or her professional responsibilities*), and OAR 584-
19 020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts constituting criminal conduct, even*
20 *in the absence of a conviction*).

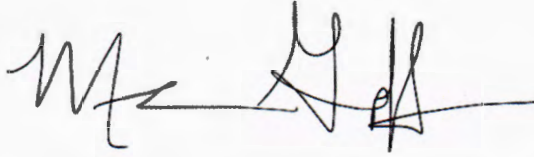
21 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon
22 ORS 342.175.

23
24 **FINAL ORDER**

25 The Commission hereby revokes Henry J. Claxton's Oregon educator license and
26 Claxton's right to apply for an Oregon educator license.

27
28 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5 day of June, 2024.

29
30 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
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32
33



By: _____

Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director

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.