

1                   BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

2                                           OF THE STATE OF OREGON

3   In the Matter of the                                            )           STIPULATION OF FACTS AND  
4   Teaching License of                                           )           FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION  
5   JAMES JOSEPH RUSSO                                           )           OF RIGHT TO APPLY FOR LICENSURE

6           On or about December 16, 2004, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  
7   (Commission) received a report from Carol Miller, Secretary, Salem-Keizer Public Schools indicating  
8   that James Joseph Russo (Russo) while substituting at Bush College Elementary, was recognized by a  
9   district employee as a person who made improper sexual advances toward her and a friend in the mid-  
10   70's, when they were young girls acquainted with Mr. Russo in the community.

11           After review of the matters alleged, Russo and the Commission agree that their respective  
12   interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and  
13   revocation of his right to apply for licensure.

14           This document sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the stipulated  
15   sanction to be imposed. Russo stipulates that there is sufficient evidence in the Commission's files  
16   and records to support the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below.

17           By signing below, Russo acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following:  
18   (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact,  
19   conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights  
20   to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Revocation of Right to  
21   Apply (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and  
22   disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is  
23   contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does  
24   not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Mr. Russo nor the Commission  
25   are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands  
26   it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final  
27   Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no  
28   promises or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and

1 (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully  
2 advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior  
3 to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order  
4 below.

5 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 6 1) The Commission has licensed James Joseph Russo since July 1, 1973. The Commission issued  
7 a Basic Teaching to Mr. Russo with a Basic Elementary endorsement on January 8, 2004,  
8 which expired on January 27, 2007. Mr. Russo is retired from teaching.
- 9 2) It was reported to the Commission that Mr. Russo made improper sexual advances toward two  
10 girls in the community in the 1970's.
- 11 3) Mr. Russo was alleged to have engaged in a sexual relationship with one of the girls beginning  
12 when she was approximately 9-10 years old and continuing for approximately a year and a  
13 half.
- 14 4) The second girl alleged that Mr. Russo made an attempt to engage in sexual activity with her,  
15 but she successfully repulsed his attempt.
- 16 5) During the time of these incidents Mr. Russo was licensed by the Commission. Neither of the  
17 girls involved were students of Mr. Russo.
- 18 6) Mr. Russo does not admit these allegations; however, he agrees that the Commission has  
19 sufficient evidence to revoke his right to apply for licensure.

20 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

21 James Joseph Russo  
22 James Joseph Russo

23 Victoria Chamberlain  
24 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
25 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

3-5-2012  
Date

4-30-12  
Date

26 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

27 The above described conduct that James Joseph Russo engaged in constitutes Gross Unfitness  
28 and Gross Neglect of Duty in violation of ORS 342.175(b) and (c).

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


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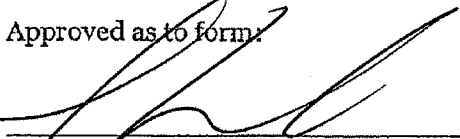
**ORDER**

The Commission hereby adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and revokes James Joseph Russo's right to apply for a teaching license.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By:   
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

Approved as to form:  
  
Thomas K. Doyle, OSB #97251  
Attorney for James Joseph Russo